



BY:

United States Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture August 16, 2019

Office of the Chief Information Officer Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin Evers American Oversight 1030 15th Street NW

1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250 Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.com

Re: Final Response for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2019-DA-00451-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO's) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request. For the following information, from April 24, 2017, through the date of the search:

All communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations/entries) by political appointees* in the immediate Office of the Secretary with or about any of the following groups or individuals representing the following groups:

- i. National Grain and Feed Association (including anyone whose email address ends in ngfa.org)
- ii. Georgia Agribusiness Council (including anyone whose email address ends in gaagribusiness.org)
- iii. Bipartisan Policy Center (including anyone whose email address ends in bipartisanpolicy.org)
- iv. Perdue, Inc (including anyone whose email address ends in perdueinc.com)
- v. Perdue Partners (including anyone whose email address ends in perduepartners.com)
- vi. Perdue Management Holdings LLC
- vii. Perdue Business Holdings, Inc (including Robert Tuggle and anyone whose email address ends in dltj.com)
- viii. AGrowStar (including anyone whose email address ends in agrowstar.com)
- ix. ProAg Products LLC (including anyone whose email address ends in pro-ag.com)
- x. Benton Global (including anyone whose email address ends in bentonglobal.com)
- xi. Anyone with an email address ending in georgia.gov or ga.gov



xii. Senator David Perdue, or anyone from his office (including anyone whose email ends in @perdue.senate.gov) xiii. Trey Childress (including any emails sent from the email address Trey.Childress@illinois.gov)

Your request was processed under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) telecommunications provider Client Experience Center (CEC) on November 11, 2018, which is the cutoff date for responsive records. The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users, as well as implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide. Responsive records totaling two hundred and sixty-nine (269) pages were identified as a result of the CEC search. Two hundred and fifty-three (253) pages are being released, including placeholders for duplicate records and for records being withheld in full.

Following a review of the records identified to date, the DFO has determined that certain information contained therein should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4), (b)(5) and (b)(6) (FOIA Exemptions 4, 5 and 6). Below is an explanation of the information that has been withheld.

FOIA Exemption 4

Exemption 4 of the FOIA, which protects privileged or confidential trade secrets and commercial or financial information, is intended to protect the interests of both the government and submitters of information. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). The exemption covers two broad categories of information contained in Federal agency records: 1) trade secrets, and 2) information that is (a) commercial or financial, and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged or confidential. When commercial or financial information is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner and provided to the government under an assurance of privacy, it is exempt from disclosure.

The information withheld under Exemption 4 consists of private commercial information provided to the agency under assurances of confidentiality. The withheld information is also not customarily disclosed to the public and treated as private by the submitter. For these reasons, the information is being withheld under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

FOIA Exemption 5

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." One of the frequently invoked FOIA Exemption 5 privileges is the deliberative process privilege. To fall within FOIA's deliberative

www.dm.usda.gov/foia



process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter.

In this instance, the DFO is withholding, under the deliberative process privilege, predecisional intra-agency discussions and briefings on agency actions and programs on issues relating to trade, agricultural commodities, personnel matters, and proposed legislation and regulations; proposed responses to media, industry, congressional and internal inquiries; proposed meeting agendas; and proposed talking points. Disclosure of such information would have a chilling effect on the ability of agency officials to engage in free and frank discussions regarding policy but also may cause confusion on the agency's actual position on the policy at issue.

The DFO is also withholding information under the attorney-client privilege. This privilege protects confidential communication between an attorney and his/her client relating to a legal matter for which the client has sought professional advice. Although this privilege fundamentally applies to facts divulged by a client to his/her attorney, this privilege also encompasses any opinion given by an attorney to his/her client based upon those facts, as well as communications between attorneys that reflect client supplied information. In this instance, the DFO is withholding information shared internally whereby the Department's counsel regarding pending legal issues.

FOIA Exemption 6

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption. It provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Application of the exemption involves balancing the public's interest in disclosure against individuals' privacy interests.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of: mobile phone numbers, a personal email address, business contact information that is not publicly available, alias email addresses for Secretary Sonny Perdue and Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, identifying information on potential candidates for employment, the resume for a candidate for employment, a loan number, and individuals' personal matters. This information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information in which individuals have a privacy interest. Releasing the information could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Furthermore, releasing this information would reveal little about the operations or activities of the Government. Since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes this office to withhold the information. Accordingly, we have determined that the public interest in the information's release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.



With regard to the alias email address for Secretary Sonny Perdue and Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky, the agency has a significant interest in ensuring that its officials have the capacity to safely perform a full range of official functions, including emergency operations, continuity of operations, and devolution planning and execution. These functions could not be accomplished if public email-writing campaigns impeded communications to the email accounts from which officials operate in emergency situations. In the event of emergency, not only are alias accounts necessary for safe and efficient emergency operations, but also so that family members can reach otherwise unavailable officials. While the existence of such alias email accounts and certain content of emails released therefrom may shed light on agency functions, the actual email addresses do not in and of themselves advance a public interest—particularly when balanced against the critical interest of agency officials in maintaining safe and responsible communication with critical business contacts including those in The White House, during emergency situations and situations presenting potential national security threats. That said, in response to records requests, it is the agency's policy to process and release responsive documents derived from searches of all agency email accounts (including alias email accounts) to the extent not otherwise exempt or prohibited by law. Furthermore, we note that the disclosure of officials' primary official email accounts serves as the most appropriate point of contact for the public and poses the least amount of risk or threat in emergency operations.

You may appeal this response by email at <u>USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov</u>, or by mail to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Whitten Building, Room 209-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0103. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days form the date of this letter. The DFO will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above, a copy of the original request, the DFO's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Ravoyne Payton at <u>USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov</u>.

You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit https://ogis.archives.gov/mediation-program/request-assistance.htm for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.



Austin Evers 2019-DA-00451-F

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Camille Aponte at (202) 694-5260, or electronically at Camille.Aponte@usda.gov or USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov. For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

Sincerely,

ALEXIS

Digitally signed by ALEXIS GRAVES

GRAVES

Date: 2019.08.16 13:53:40 -04'00'

Alexis R. Graves

Departmental FOIA Officer

Office of the Chief Information Officer

Enclosure: Responsive Records (253 pages)



From: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: [Caution: Suspicious Attachment]Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 9:43:43 PM

Hey Ray,

b) (5) - Deliberative

Thanks,

Brooke

Brooke Appleton Chief of Staff Deputy Secretary's Office U.S. Department of Agriculture 202-720-6052

On Sep 10, 2018, at 9:24 PM, Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov > wrote:



Thanks,

-Ray

Begin forwarded message:

From: Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Date: September 8, 2018

Subject: Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal

Coalition

From: "Gold, Jon" < @NRF.com>

Date: Sep 7, 2018 5:29 PM

Subject: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

To: "Gold, Jon" < NRF.com>

Cc:

All,



I would first like to thank everyone who has been participating in our ad hoc China 301 Coalition effort. It has been great to see such a wide array of businesses and associations come together and align on this important issue.

As we have been discussing over the past couple of months, there has been a desire and a need to create a more formal coalition effort, especially as the administration continues to push forward on the List 3 tariffs, and now potentially on a List 4 (Trump threatens China with tariffs on \$267 billion in goods).

Please do not share this information with the press, but we are pleased to announce that we will be formally launching our new coalition – Americans for Free Trade (AFT) – on September 12. We will be partnering with the Farmers for Free Trade Coalition and their current "Tariffs Hurt the Heartland" campaign. Our focus will be on grassroots/grasstops and media to help tell the story of the businesses, workers and families who are being hurt by the tariffs.

With the formal coalition launch, we wanted to let everyone know that the ad hoc coalition efforts will transition to the AFT activities. We would like everyone to consider continuing their participation as part of the new Americans for Free Trade Coalition. Happy to discuss the different levels of participation (paid/free) in more detail with interested parties.

Please let me know by <u>COB</u>, <u>Tuesday September 11</u> if your association/company would like to continue to participate in the new AFT Coalition. Please fill out the attached Participation Form and send it back to me. We will transition those who wish to participate to the General Membership level at the start. We will have a rolling membership, so companies/associations will be still be able to join the coalition after the launch.

In addition, we will be sending a letter (*attached*) to Congress announcing the launch of the formal coalition. We plan to include the names of the associations who have signed up for the coalition. Please let me know if your association would like to be listed on the letter.

If you have any questions, especially about the funding levels, please let me know.

Jon



Jonathan E. Gold

Vice President, Supply Chain and Customs Policy National Retail Federation

Direct: (b) (6)
Email: (b) @nrf.com

Did you know retail is the largest private employer in the United States? Learn more at nrf.com/retailjobs.

<Americans for Free Trade Coalition Participation Form.docx>

<Americans for Free Trade Announcement Congressional Letter 090718.docx>



From: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

To: (b) @ngfa.org

Subject: RE: [Caution: Suspicious Attachment]Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 9:25:00 PM

Thanks, Randy.

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 8, 2018 11:00 AM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: [Caution: Suspicious Attachment]Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal

Coalition

Also, as you probably know, (b) (4)

Best, Randy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Max Fisher <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Date: September 8, 2018 at 7:10:47 AM CDT

To: Randy Gordon <(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>, Bobby Frederick <(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>, Gary

Martin < (b) (6) @naega.org>, Ryan Olsen < (b) (6) @naega.org>, Sarah Gonzalez

<(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>

Subject: Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

Fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Gold, Jon" < (b) @NRF.com>

Date: Sep 7, 2018 5:29 PM

Subject: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

To: "Gold, Jon" < (b) @NRF.com>

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Vice President, Supply Chain and Customs Policy National Retail Federation





Email: (b) @nrf.com

Did you know retail is the largest private employer in the United States? Learn more at nrf.com/retailiobs.

THINK Before You Open!

This message has an HTML attachment that may display **possibly spoofed** web content. Pages like these are used in phishing attacks.

Prior to opening this attachment, please weigh this **warning** by considering whether you are expecting the message above, along with the inspection of sending addresses for unexpected names or domains.

Questions: Contact Client Technology Services (CTS) via email at (Spam.Abuse@wdc.usda.gov)

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To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Subject: FW: [Caution: Suspicious Attachment]Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 9:24:49 PM

Attachments: Americans for Free Trade Coalition Participation Form.docx

Americans for Free Trade Announcement Congressional Letter 090718.docx



Thanks, -Ray

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Direct: (b) (6)
Email: (b) @nrf.com

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Americans for Free Trade Coalition Participation

Association/Company Name	
Government Affairs Contact(s)	
Name	Email
Press Contact(s)	
Name	Email



Draft Americans for Free Trade Congressional Letter

September 12, 2018

The Honorable XXXXX U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate Room/Building Washington, DC 20515/20510

Dear Representative/Senator

Like you, we have heard the urgent concerns from businesses across the country about the negative impact of tariffs on American economic growth, jobs, and prosperity. Today, in response to these concerns, we are writing to officially announce the formation of Americans for Free Trade. We are a growing coalition representing U.S. manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service suppliers, natural gas and oil companies, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders, who are united in their concern about the negative impacts that the new tariffs are and will continue to have on U.S. businesses, workers and consumers.

While we agree that there are issues that need to be addressed with key trading partners, tariffs are the wrong approach to bring about meaningful change. Every day, companies large and small are sharing their stories of the harm the tariffs and ensuing retaliation are causing across all sectors of the American economy.

Americans for Free Trade will be joining with Farmers for Free Trade to support the "Tariffs Hurt the Heartland" campaign, which has effectively shown the growing negative impact of tariffs on the farming and agriculture economy. Americans for Free Trade will add to this effort by showing the impact to the other sectors of the economy represented by our coalition. Working together, our campaign will amplify the voices of the American families, workers, farmers and businesses who are being hurt by these tariffs.

Our effort will begin where the tariffs have already caused great harm: at the grassroots level in the American heartland. Beginning with the September Congressional recess and continuing in the Fall, we will be holding events that bring together those Americans whose livelihoods have been impacted by tariffs for public events that highlight the need to de-escalate the trade war.

We hope you will lend your support to our efforts across the country and participate in indistrict events with affected stakeholders. We also strongly encourage Congress to exercise its oversight role on trade policy matters to prevent further harm to U.S. workers, consumers and families that will result from new tariffs – both those already being implemented and future tariffs that have been proposed.

We invite you to learn more about the negative impact of tariffs by visiting xxxx.com. If you have any questions, please contact XXXX.



Sincerely,

XXXXX



From: Randy Gordon To: Ray Starling

Subject: [Caution: Suspicious Attachment] Fwd: China 301 Ad Hoc Coalition - Transition to Formal Coalition

Saturday, September 8, 2018 11:00:15 AM Date:

Attachments: Americans for Free Trade Coalition Participation Form.docx

ATT00001.htm

Americans for Free Trade Announcement Congressional Letter 090718.docx

ATT00002.htm

Ray, (b) (4) Also, as you probably know, (b) (4)

Best, Randy

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Max Fisher < (0) (0) @ngfa.org>

Date: September 8, 2018 at 7:10:47 AM CDT

To: Randy Gordon <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>, Bobby Frederick

(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>, Gary Martin < (b) (6) <u>@naega.org</u>>, Ryan Olsen <u>@naega.org</u>>, Sarah Gonzalez < (b) (6) <u>@nafa.org</u>>

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Jon

Jonathan E. Gold

Vice President, Supply Chain and Customs Policy

National Retail Federation

Direct: (b) (6)
Email: (b) @nrf.com

Did you know retail is the largest private employer in the United States? Learn more at nrf.com/retailjobs.



The documents attached to the preceding email, totaling 3 pages, are duplicates of the documents found at pages 9 to 11.



From: Sonny Perdue
To: Geswein, Chris

Cc: Stuart Bender; (b) (6) Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Estill, SC

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 3:55:51 PM

Thanks Chris.

On Feb 1, 2018, at 3:20 PM, Geswein, Chris < (6) (6) <u>@adm.com</u>> wrote:

We have received the letter and we are all taken care of.

Thank you,

Chris

From: Geswein, Chris

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 10:12 AM

To: 'Sonny Perdue' (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: Estill, SC

Sonny,

I have not received the letter yet. Can you check on it?

Thanks,

Chris

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 7:19 AM

To: Geswein, Chris < (b) (6) @adm.com>
Cc: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Estill, SC

Chris,

I contacted Stuart Bender, our ethics officer, after our conversation, and requested the divestiture letter. He told me he was out of town until after the first, but he would get the letter to you as soon as he gets back. I gave him your Decatur address.

Safe travels to Illinois. I have enjoyed our friendship and hope that our paths will cross again.

Best,



Sonny

Sonny

On Fri, Dec 22, 2017 at 11:51 AM, Geswein, Chris < (b) (6) @adm.com> wrote:

Secretary Perdue,

I have accepted a new position with ADM as the Commercial Manager for Soy Processing in Decatur, IL. I will be relocating my family in the next few weeks from Valdosta, GA to Decatur, IL. I enjoyed working with you and your AGrowStar team. I am thankful that my new position will allow me to continue many of the business relationships that I have developed in the Southeast. I am trying to clean up a few things before I leave. One of them being your pending sale of AGrowStar and the impact it has the on the additional considerations in the agreement. We need a letter of divesture from the Office or Government Ethics or we need to discuss a potential payment to ADM based on the sales price. Feel free to reach out to me by email or please give me a call on my cell phone. This week I can be reached at (b) (6)

Next week the best number will be (b) (6)

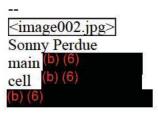
I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday.

Thank you,

Chris Geswein ADM

Confidentiality Notice:

This message may contain confidential or privileged information, or information that is otherwise exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you should promptly delete it and should not disclose, copy or distribute it to others.



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copy or distribute it to others.



 From:
 Randy Gordon

 To:
 Sonny Perdue

 Cc:
 Heidi Green

Subject: Fwd: ADVISORY: Secretary Perdue to Receive Government Executive of the Year Award TOMORROW

Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 3:51:52 PM

Congratulations, Mr. Secretary and COS Green! Much deserved recognition. No agency of the fed govt has done more to improve than USDA! You and your team have much of which to be proud!

All best wishes,

Randy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "USDA Office of Communications" < usda@public.govdelivery.com>

Date: April 30, 2018 at 2:13:19 PM EDT

To: (b) (6) @ngfa.org

Subject: ADVISORY: Secretary Perdue to Receive Government Executive of the Year Award

TOMORROW

Reply-To: usda@public.govdelivery.com

re subscribed to USDA Office of r Media Advisory	Communications.	

Contact: USDA Press Email: press@oc.usda.gov

ADVISORY: Secretary Perdue to Receive Government Executive of the Year Award TOMORROW

(Washington, D.C., April 30, 2018) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will join the Service to the Citizen Awards Ceremony hosted by Dorris Consulting International TOMORROW, Tuesday, May 1st. At the ceremony, the Secretary will receive the Government Executive of the Year award for his work to make the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government. Secretary Perdue will offer brief remarks after receiving the award.

Secretary Perdue Receives Government Executive of the Year Award and Delivers Remarks

WHAT: Secretary Perdue will receive the Government Executive of the Year Award before delivering remarks.

WHEN: TOMORROW, Tuesday, May 1st at 12:30 p m. ET

WHERE: The Willard InterContental, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20004

*NOTE: Media interested in covering the event must RSVP to servicetothecitizen@gmail.com prior to the event.

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If you have questions about USDA activities, please visit our Ask the Expert page. This feature is designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.

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 From:
 Randy Gordon

 To:
 Steve Censky

Subject: Ag Organizations" Letter to Governors **Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6:05:35 PM

Attachments: Letter FoodAq-Governors NAFTA 171114-General.pdf

Dear Steve, Heidi, Ted and Brooke,

I wanted to alert you to the attached letter sent today to all 50 governors respectfully requesting that they contact President Trump regarding the importance of NAFTA to the U.S. food and ag sector, and encouraging that the Administration remain at the table to secure a successful modernization of the accord. It was developed through the North American Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade, and was signed by 168 U.S. agricultural producer, commodity, agribusiness and food associations and companies.

We hope it will be helpful.

Best wishes to you all and thanks for all you do!

Randy

Randall C. Gordon, President

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u> | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)



Dear Governor:

We write to underscore the importance of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the U.S. food and agriculture industry and to express concern about the potential of a withdrawal from this critical trade agreement. We appreciate President Trump's initiative to modernize NAFTA with a "do no harm" pledge to American food and agriculture, and we are committed to working constructively with the Trump Administration on efforts to improve and modernize NAFTA. We encourage NAFTA negotiations to continue without the threat of withdrawal.

We respectfully request that you let President Trump know that you support a modernized NAFTA that maintains and enhances food and agricultural trade between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and recognition that withdrawal from the accord would have adverse impacts, as articulated herein.

The undersigned organizations represent a diverse U.S. food and agricultural industry which supports more than 22 million jobs—including more manufacturing jobs than any other U.S. manufacturing sector—and accounts for 20 percent of the U.S. economy. Our industry is the economic backbone of rural America—stimulating employment all along the value chain. Additional information on how our industry positively impacts your State can be found at FeedingTheEconomy.com.

Under NAFTA, American food and agriculture exports to Canada and Mexico grew by 450 percent. In 2015, the United States held a 65 percent market share for agriculture products in the NAFTA region, and in 2016, we exported nearly \$43 billion worth of food and agricultural goods to Canada and Mexico, making our NAFTA partners the largest export consumers of U.S. agriculture. NAFTA also lowered the price of various inputs throughout the supply chain—benefitting U.S. consumers— and helped eliminate non-tariff barriers, making U.S. agriculture more competitive. Of course, NAFTA has also provided U.S. consumers year-round, reliable access to many forms of produce previously available only on a seasonal basis.

Notice of withdrawal from NAFTA would result in substantial harm to the U.S. economy generally, and U.S. food and agriculture producers, in particular. While it has been asserted that negotiations could be completed and a new agreement approved subsequent to issuance of notice of withdrawal; but, prior to actual withdrawal, that observation underestimates the business complexity, integrated supply chains and contracting periods involved. Such a notice of withdrawal would fuel additional uncertainty among our North American trading partners, creating a sense of urgency to explore non-U.S.-origin sources of supply. It would also trigger a substantial, immediate response in commodity markets, as market-specific focus would turn to a scheduled return to trade-prohibitive tariff rates. Contracts would be renegotiated or cancelled, sales would be delayed or lost altogether, able foreign competitors would rush to seize our export markets, and litigation would abound even before withdrawal took effect.

According to a study by ImpactECON, should Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. return to "most favored nation" (MFN) tariff rates upon any withdrawal from NAFTA and subsequently the U.S.-Canada Free



Trade Agreement, the negative impact on the U.S. would far outweigh any benefits from higher U.S. tariffs, including a net loss of 256,000 U.S. jobs, a net loss of at least 50,000 jobs in the U.S. food and agriculture industry, and a drop in GDP of \$13 billion from the farm sector alone. NAFTA withdrawal would also disrupt critical industry supply chains, close markets, eliminate jobs, and increase prices for the basic needs of American consumers.

More specifically, the detrimental impacts that would begin with issuance of a notice of withdrawal from NAFTA include:

- **Corn:** The U.S. exported \$3.2 billion worth of corn to Mexico and Canada last year, supporting 25,000 sector jobs. Withdrawal would cause U.S. production to fall by an average of 150 million bushels annually, erasing \$800 million in value and increasing the need for farm program payments by \$1.2 billion;
- Pork: Mexico and Canada account for nearly 40 percent of U.S. pork export volume. An
 economic analysis by Iowa State University found that withdrawal would decrease total U.S.
 pork production by 5 percent, resulting in an aggregate industry loss of around \$1.5 billion,
 jeopardizing more than 16,200 U.S. jobs;
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables: Canada and Mexico account for 18 percent of U.S. fresh fruit exports and 60 percent of U.S. fresh vegetable exports. Since 1993, fruit and vegetable exports from the U.S. to Mexico and Canada have more than tripled, reaching \$7.2 billion. When Mexico applied temporary retaliatory tariffs to apples, cherries, and pears beginning in 2009, losses reached \$65 million per crop year, presaging some of the damage that could be done from a full NAFTA withdrawal;
- Rice: U.S. rice competes in a global market that is distorted by subsidies and government import
 controls, which artificially increase world rice supplies and restrict U.S. markets. NAFTA is a
 proven shield against these distortions. Mexico and Canada account for nearly 30 percent of all
 U.S. rice exports. Exiting NAFTA will open these markets to competitors from Asia and Brazil
 with no obvious home for displaced U.S. sales, as world rice stocks are rising;
- Soy: \$3 billion in annual soy exports would be jeopardized as Mexico and Canada look to our competitors in South America for supply;
- Beef: In 2016, U.S. beef exports to Mexico and Canada exceeded \$1.7 billion and accounted for 27 percent of total U.S. beef exports. Since NAFTA was implemented, exports to Mexico, an irreplaceable market for large volumes of certain beef cuts, have risen nearly 250 percent. NAFTA withdrawal would raise tariffs above 20 percent, causing a reduction in beef exports, a contraction in U.S. beef production, fewer jobs in the U.S. beef industry, and lower returns for U.S. cattlemen, ranchers, and meat packers;
- Almonds: NAFTA continues to play a crucial role in the success of the California almond industry.
 Since NAFTA entered into force in 1993, the total value of U.S. almonds exported to Canada and Mexico has increased over 650 percent. Taken individually, exports of almonds to Canada have increased from approximately \$40 million in 1993 to \$267 million in 2016, while exports to Mexico have increased from \$6 million in 1993 to almost \$80 million in 2016;



- **Poultry:** U.S. chicken and turkey products have greatly benefited from NAFTA. In 2016, U.S. poultry exports were 7.95 billion pounds, over 16 percent of total production. Canada was second largest market for the chicken industry and in the top five for turkey. Mexico proved the largest single customer for U.S. poultry exports in 2016. Almost 70 percent of U.S. turkey exports go to Mexico. Disruption of this vital link in trade would be devastating. Mexico imported 23.5 percent of all U.S. poultry exports, while Canada received more than 5 percent of U.S. poultry exports. Mexico and Canada are the top two markets for combined exports of U.S. eggs and processed egg products;
- High-Fructose Corn Syrup ("HFCS"): U.S. exports to Mexico would decrease by \$500 million per year, as Mexico would replace U.S. HFCS with sugar and there is no alternative market for that production;
- Spirits: Canada and Mexico could impose tariffs of up to 45 percent, causing consumers in those markets to substitute away from U.S. spirits, while Canadian and Mexican origin spirits would continue to enter the U.S. market duty-free. Moreover, important provisions that protect U.S. spirits producers against the fraudulent use of the terms "Bourbon" and "Tennessee Whiskey" would be eliminated;
- Wheat: Prior to NAFTA, state intervention and import tariffs kept U.S. wheat exports out of the Mexican market. Now, most U.S. wheat state farmers rely on Mexico as their number one market. Without NAFTA, wheat from other sources will increasingly displace U.S. wheat from the Mexican and Canadian markets. In fact, an upcoming shipment of wheat from Argentina to Mexico—a first in modern history— as Mexico looks to diversify suppliers amidst the uncertainty over NAFTA's future;
- Processed Food & Beverages: The processed food and beverage industry is the single largest source of employment in U.S. manufacturing and is highly integrated in North America. NAFTA is critical for the continued competitiveness of this industry whose inputs, finished goods, and investments cross both northern and southern borders of the U.S., enabling U.S. food and beverage manufacturers to thrive as a key driver the U.S. economy and U.S. jobs;
- Frozen Fruit & Vegetables: Without NAFTA, tariff costs would likely exceed \$25 million for U.S. exports of frozen fruit and vegetables to Canada and Mexico, which would negatively impact U.S. manufacturing jobs in a sector that directly employs 160,000 U.S. workers;
- Cotton Fiber & Cotton Textiles: At almost 1 million bales, Mexico is a reliable and important market for U.S. cotton fiber. Mexico also ranks second among U.S. cotton textile and apparel export customers, buying 15 percent of total U.S. cotton textile and apparel exports;
- Dairy: Over \$1 billion a year in U.S. dairy products are shipped to Mexico. If Mexico reverts to MFN status, applied tariffs would range from 20 to 60 percent on cheese and up to 45 percent for skim milk powder, thus undermining the largest market by far for U.S. dairy exports at a time when Mexico is preparing to finalize negotiations with the EU - the world's largest dairy exporter and a region keen to act as a substitute for U.S. dairy;
- Oats: Over 90 percent of oats milled and processed in the U.S. are imported from Canada. In addition, some of these wholesome oat food products are exported back to Canada and Mexico. Any disruption of NAFTA would be detrimental to the entire supply chain;



- **Confectionary:** Exports to Canada and Mexico have grown over 300 percent since the implementation of NAFTA. Without NAFTA, sustaining this growth is in jeopardy;
- Peanuts: Canada and Mexico are the two leading markets for U.S. peanut exports, and accounted for more than \$300 million of export sales in 2016. All of this trade would be jeopardized by any disruptions related to NAFTA;
- Animal Feed: \$2.3 billion in annual exports would be jeopardized. Mexico and Canada are the U.S.'s number 1 and 3 export destinations for feed, respectively; and
- Pet Food: More than \$673 million in annual exports would be jeopardized. Canada and Mexico are the U.S.'s number 1 and 4 export destinations for pet food, respectively, accounting for nearly half of all U.S. exports.

The adverse effects of issuance of a notice of NAFTA withdrawal would be abrupt and particularly severe for America's farmers, food manufacturers, and agribusinesses. For instance, the world grain market currently is experiencing the greatest oversupply of production since the 1980s - with the U.S. facing increasing competition from foreign competitors – and net U.S. farm income has declined to half what it was just five years ago. 2018 would be an especially damaging time to lose America's two largest food and agriculture product markets.

Therefore, we urge your support for continued positive U.S. engagement in NAFTA negotiations to advance America's economic interests by opening new export opportunities and by tackling non-tariff concerns our industries have identified. By building on the Administration's "do no harm" pledge toward food and agriculture trade within NAFTA renegotiation, modernization of trade relations with two of our largest export markets can and should be effectively advanced.

Thank you for your support.

AgPartners, LLC American Feed Industry Association

Agriculture Transportation Coalition American Frozen Food Institute

Agri-Mark, Inc. American Peanut Council

Almond Alliance of California American Peanut Product Manufacturers, Inc.

Amcot, Inc. American Potato Trade Alliance

American Bakers Association American Seed Trade Association

American Cotton Shippers Association American Soybean Association

Animal Health Institute American Dairy Products Institute

American Farm Bureau Federation Archer Daniels Midland Company



Associated Milk Producers Inc. Commercial Creamery Co.

Attebury Grain Cooperative Network

Bartlett Grain Company Corn Refiners Association

Beachner Grain, Inc. Cotton Growers Cooperative

Bella Pak, Appleton WI

The Cranberry Institute

Biotechnology Innovation Organization Dairy Farmers of America, Inc

Bluegrass Dairy and Food Dairy Producers of New Mexico

Bunge North America Darigold, Inc.

Calcot Dean Foods, S.A. de C.V.

California Cherry Export Association Deere & Company

California Dairies, Inc. Distilled Spirits Council of the United States

California Dried Plum Board Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative

California Grain and Feed Association Elanco Animal Health

California Pear Growers Farmers Grain Terminal, Inc.

California Walnut Commission Fresh Produce Association of the Americas

Cargill, Incorporated Georgia Milk Producers, Inc.

Cayuga Milk Ingredients Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA)

Center for Dairy Excellence Global Trading Resources Inc. (Portland, OR)

CHS Inc. Grain and Feed Association of Illinois

Coalition of New England Companies for Trade

Colorado Association of Wheat Growers

(CONECT)

CoBank ACB

Columbia Grain, Inc.

Grassland Dairy Products Inc

Grocery Manufacturers Association

Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.

Hop Growers of America

Idaho Dairymen's Association



Ida	ho Grain Prod	ucers Association	Missouri Dairy Association
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Illinois Corn Growers Association	Montana Grain Growers Association

Illinois Milk Producers' Association	Nagel Farm Service
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James Farrell & Co.	National Confectioners Association
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Kansas Cooperative Council	National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

Land O'Lakes. I	nc. N	National	Grain and	Feed	Association

Landus Cooperative National Milk Producers Federation

Leprino Foods Company	National Oilseed Processors Association

Lortscher Agri Service, Inc.	National Pork Producers Council

Maginnis Associates, LLC	National Renderers Association

	McCormick & Company,	lnc.	Nebraska	i Grain and	l Feed	Association
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MCT Dairies. Inc. Millburn. NJ	Nebraska State Dairy Association

Michigan Agri-Business Association	North American Export Grain Association

Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Inc. Nor	th American Meat Institute
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Michigan Bean Shippers North American Millers' Association

Midwest Food Products Association North Dakota Grain Growers Association

Milk Specialties Global Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold

Minnesota Grain and Feed Association Northwest Horticultural Council

Minnesota Milk Producers Association O-AT-KA Milk Products Coop., Inc.



Ohio AgriBusiness Association	Staplcotn	2019-D
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association	Stratford Grain Company	
Ohio Dairy Producers Association	Sunsweet Growers Inc.	
Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council	Sweetener Users Association	
Organic Trade Association	Tate & Lyle Americas	
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association	Team Marketing Alliance	
Oregon Wheat Growers League	Texas Grain and Feed Association	
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and	Texas International Produce Association	
Freight Forwarders Associations Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association	Texas Wheat Producers Association	
Pet Food Institute	The Andersons, Inc.	
	Trugman Nash LLC, Millburn, NJ	
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association	T.C. Jacoby & Company, Inc.	
Pride Ag Resources	United Dairymen of Arizona	
Produce Coalition for NAFTA	United Egg Producers	
Produce Marketing Association	United Fresh Produce Association	
Proliant Dairy	United Potato Growers of America	
Riceland Foods, Inc.	USA Poultry and Egg Export Council	
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association	USA Rice	
Sargento Foods Inc.	U.S. Apple Association	
Schuman Cheese	U.S. Apple Export Council	
Smithfield Foods	U.S. Dairy Export Council	
SNAC International	U.S. Grains Council	
South Dakota Grain and Feed Association	U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association	
South East Dairy Farmers Association	U.S. Meat Export Federation	



U.S. Wheat Associates Wheeler Brothers Grain Company, LLC

Washington Association of Wheat Growers Whitgro Inc.

Washington State Potato Commission WineAmerica

Western United Dairymen Wisconsin Agri-Business Association



From: Randy Gordon

To: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

Subject: RE: Are you in town today and available for a quick drop-by at 6:15 pm or so?

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:06:18 PM

Thanks! Will do!

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 2:01 PM
To: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: RE: Are you in town today and available for a quick drop-by at 6:15 pm or so?

I now have a meeting from 5:30 – 6:00 so I will certainly be here. Come by the Front Porch and check in and I'm happy to talk for as long as it takes. I can give you some dates that will work.

-Ray

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 11:59 AM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** Re: Are you in town today and available for a quick drop-by at 6:15 pm or so?

Thanks! Sorry you'll still be there and will keep it short!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2018, at 11:35 AM, Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Call me on my cell once you're free. I will unfortunately likely still be here. (b) (6)



From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 10:07:34 AM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** Are you in town today and available for a quick drop-by at 6:15 pm or so?

Ray,

I hope this finds you and yours doing well!



I'm going to be in the Whitten building for a meeting at 5:30 pm, and was wondering if you'd be available for a 15-minute catch-up visit around 6:15 or so if you're not traveling with the Secretary this week?

Would like to revisit your potential availability to meet with the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Group sometime in August or early September, as well as update you on some meetings NGFA has been having on traderelated issues.

Many thanks for your consideration!

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO
National Grain and Feed Association
1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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From: (b) @osec.usda.qov Stephen Censky's alias email
To: @osec.usda.qov

Subject: AutoStore - See Attached Document
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2018 3:26:00 PM

Attachments: Scan.pdf

Please see attached document.

Powered by NSi AutoStore.









January 16, 2018

The Honorable Steve Censky, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Greg Ibach, Undersecretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

The Honorable Ted McKinney, Undersecretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) appreciate the time you took to meet with us on Jan. 9 to discuss next steps to achieve our mutual objective of preserving U.S. soybean export trade with China and addressing Chinese policies related to imports of grains, oilseeds and other agricultural products. We appreciated the productive dialogue.

We thought it might be helpful to get back to you with some observations related to next steps on key action items related to the Systems Approach for Soybeans, which were summarized so well by Deputy Secretary Censky at the close of the meeting, and to provide some additional perspectives about potentially expanding the scope of work to address issues associated with China's policies toward agricultural products contained in Decree 177, which were discussed briefly but were not a major focus during the meeting.

Attached are the 2010 USDA-AQSIQ MOU and the most recent report we received during our participation in the Soybean Systems Approach Strategy Group prior to APHIS's early December meeting with AQSIQ (2017-11-20 Draft Report - China US grain Weed Seeds CD and GG Presented Version). Concepts and policies from each of these documents are incorporated into our action-item thoughts herein:

- Weed Seed Education/Information Effort: Establish crop-specific Technical and Communication Working Groups – <u>starting with the Systems Approach for soybeans</u> – to address Chinese demands to reduce weed seed content in U.S. imports of agricultural products covered by Decree 177.
 - a. A Technical Working Group consisting of experts from the public sector, academia, NIFA, Extension Service, State and the private sector to develop weed seed control best practices to be implemented on-farm for soybeans starting with the 2018 growing season. Such best practices likely will include, among other things, agronomic, production and harvesting measures (e.g., crop production strategies, combine settings, etc.) to control weed seeds at the farm level. We understand that APHIS is well along in establishing a broad-based expert Technical Working Group for Soybeans. We recommend that USDA consider keeping this Technical Working Group "on call" to develop weed seed control best practices appropriate for other crops and commodities covered by Decree 177 (with the flexibility to add other expertise as warranted).



- b. A Communications Working Group to develop and disseminate messaging incorporating the Technical Working Groups' best practices to growers on the U.S. approach to addressing weed seeds of quarantine concern in U.S. soybean shipments to China. Again, we understand APHIS commendably is organizing such a group. We again recommend that USDA utilize producer and commodity organizations; seed and agricultural retailers; grain, oilseed and other agricultural product handlers; the trade; relevant public institutions; and such entities as the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (and other ag media), National Association of State Departments of Agriculture; NASULCC; and others to in these communication outreach efforts.
- 2. Execute the Provisions of the 2010 MOU with China to Improve U.S. Competitiveness in Providing Soybeans to China: Prioritize activation of the provisions of the 2010 "Memorandum of Understanding Regarding China-U.S. Cooperation Program for the Inspection and Quarantine of U.S. Soybeans Exported to China" to:
 - a. Seek additional clarity on the type of "expedited agricultural clearance" to be accorded U.S. soybean imports with 1 percent or less FM, as well as what additional scrutiny or phytosanitary measures may be applied at Chinese discharge for U.S. soybean imports exceeding 1 percent FM, with the goal of facilitating execution of existing contracts and fair competition.
 - b. Monitor shipments and collect information to support the rapid response mechanism established under the 2010 MOU. For instance, our organizations proposed that FGIS, APHIS and AMS work cooperatively with U.S. exporters to collect and test FGIS Official samples from Chinese-bound U.S. soybean consignments for FM content and the presence of weed seeds. Such monitoring and reporting should be conducted under agreement with the U.S. selling party listed on the load order provided to FGIS. Under such agreements, split samples and test results could be shared between FGIS and the U.S. selling party and be kept otherwise confidential unless and until needed to address any issues that emerge concerning individual U.S. soybean consignments to China.
 - **c.** Identify opportunities to implement more predictable Chinese import requirements for U.S. soybeans. Currently, as discussed during the meeting, we have identified the need to:
 - i. Establish consistency in definitions and determinations of FM (e.g., comparable treatment of split/cracked soybeans, etc.) as applied in China and other countries from which China originates soybeans. [Note: NAEGA is currently is gathering related facts and has identified significant inconsistencies.]
 - ii. Have USDA lead international efforts to establish and implement appropriate risk-proportionate and least-trade-distortive sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures for grains and oilseeds by China and other countries. We strongly agree with USDA that such efforts should be founded in relevant conventions, best practices and science-based procedures. Two key components for the international effort should be:
 - Full consideration of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 32 Categorization of Commodities According to their Pest Risk as it applies to soybeans, which states in relevant part: "If the intended use is consumption or processing, commodities should be evaluated based only on the quarantine pests that survive the intended use. Once the intended use of grain is taken into consideration, only storage insects potentially pose more than a negligible risk due to their mobility, but they tend to be cosmopolitan and are effectively mitigated by commonly used fumigants."



- Providing for appropriate pest risk assessment in accordance with IPPC ISPM No. 11 resulting in accuracy and transparency in the determination of legitimate quarantine pests for soybeans and other crops. In this regard, there is evidence that China is raising concerns over weed seeds that are present and cosmopolitan in China, and not just those of legitimate quarantine concern. To the extent this discrepancy exists, it needs to be resolved to enable the USDA Systems Approach to focus on weed seeds of true quarantine concern.
- iii. Arriving at an agreement with AQSIQ related to imports of U.S. soybeans on:
 - · how progress under the Systems Approach will be measured; and
 - what changes in Chinese policy will result from progress under the Systems Approach in reducing the presence of quarantine weed seeds in U.S. soybean shipments (e.g., the development of a protocol that transitions away from an FM-based approach for addressing phytosanitary risks, as was discussed during the meeting).
- d. Begin developing similar Systems Approaches for agricultural products in addition to soybeans addressed by China Decree 177.

Finally, as alluded to at the outset and in various injects in this message, we suggest that USDA going forward consider creating an expanded version of the APHIS-established Soybean Systems Approach Strategy Group to begin collaborative work between the private sector and various USDA agencies, the U.S. Trade Representative's Office and other appropriate federal agencies to address the broader range of issues affecting U.S. agricultural products under China's Decree 177. Appropriate additional private sector groups could include: the American Pulse Association, the U.S. soy family of organizations, National Corn Growers Association, National Sorghum Producers Council, the U.S. Dry Bean Council, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Wheat Associates and others.

Such a scope of work could include:

- Consideration of the development of agreements or protocols for Chinese imports of other crops subject to Decree 177.
- International engagement and leadership addressing Chinese policy related to grains, oilseeds and other agricultural products addressed under Decree 177.
- Chinese compliance with relevant conventions and agreements applicable to its import measures implemented pursuant to Decree 177.

Thank you again for your time and effort on this major issue, and we would welcome your reaction to these recommendations. If appropriate and timely, perhaps it would be advisable to get together again in late January or early February to assess developments and progress on these and other action.

Sincerely,

Jim Sutter, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Soybean Export Council Randy Gordon, President and CEO, National Grain and Feed Association Gary Martin, President and CEO, North American Export Grain Association

cc: The Honorable Bruce Summers, Acting Administrator, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service The Honorable Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator, Plant Protection and Quarantine, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service The Honorable Dudley Hoskins, Chief of Staff, USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs

3



From: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: FW: AutoStore - See Attached Document

Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 7:05:48 PM

Attachments: Scan.pdf Records withheld in full under Exemption 4 (8 pages)

Taylor Crowe

Personal Assistant to the Secretary Office of the Secretary United States Department of Agriculture Cell: (b) (6)

----Original Message----

From: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 7:05 PM

To: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC < Taylor. Crowe@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: AutoStore - See Attached Document

Please see attached document.

Powered by NSi AutoStore.



From: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

To: Gordon, Julie - OSEC

Subject: Fwd: Checking if You"re Still Available Thursday Morning, Aug. 30 to Meet with Dialogue for Food and Ag Trade

Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 9:57:47 PM

Please help me make sure I have address information in the calendar for this.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > Date: Monday, August 20, 2018 at 8:08:35 AM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u> > **Subject:** RE: Checking if You're Still Available Thursday Morning, Aug. 30 to Meet with

Dialogue for Food and Ag Trade

Thanks, Ray! It will be nearby at American Farm Bureau's office at 600 Md. Ave., SW. We'll get a notice out today and see if we can get critical mass during the last week of August to make it worth your time/effort. Will keep you posted!

Thanks again!

Best, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2018 9:01 PM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC <Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Checking if You're Still Available Thursday Morning, Aug. 30 to Meet with Dialogue for

Food and Ag Trade

Randy,

Right now that looks like a good window. Thanks for the opportunity.

What/where is the venue?

-Ray

From: Randy Gordon [mailto:(b) (6) @ngfa.org]

Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 2:05 PM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Checking if You're Still Available Thursday Morning, Aug. 30 to Meet with Dialogue for Food

and Ag Trade



Ray,

Thanks again for taking your valuable time to meet with me Tuesday night. Wanted to just quickly reconfirm that you're still available to meet with the U.S. Food and Ag Trade Dialogue group on Thursday, Aug. 30 (say at 10 or 11 am)? If so, I'll get an email out Monday to make sure we can gain critical mass to make it worth your time.

Appears there might be some positive news to report on the NAFTA front. And thought this would be a great chance to discuss the short-term trade mediation package that hopefully will be finalized next week.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202



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From: Bobby Frederick

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Checking In

Date: Monday, October 15, 2018 4:27:12 PM

Thank you Ray- Hope you had a good weekend.

Thought about this a lot over the weekend- am still thinking about it strongly and carefully. I have a couple of more questions regarding day-to-day and the synergies between NEC and USDA.

Happy to talk late this afternoon, tonight or in the morning.

-Bobby

Bobby Frederick
Director of Legislative Affairs
National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Sent: Sunday, October 14, 2018 9:34 PM **To:** Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: Checking In

Bobby,

Let me know if you want to find time to talk tomorrow.

-Ray

Ray A. Starling

United States Dept. of Agriculture

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From: Randy Gordon

To: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

Subject: RE: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in July

Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 11:20:14 AM

Ray,

Sending this to you privately. This is the Dialogue group you met with at Arent Fox's office last spring that is co-chaired by Gary Martin and Bill Westman of North American Meat Association. Usually attracts 50-65 people attend from ag producer and agribusiness associations and companies, and is an OFF-THE-RECORD conversation about trade issues. This is the group Gary and I have used to try to instill patience and positive/constructive messaging with the Administration on trade.

So, my thought is that it be you and Under Secretary McKinney (your call totally on whether you want to do that). Our goal is to provide to a larger audience of influential ag folks the kind of positive – we have a strategy and a plan – conversation we had privately with the Vice President. To the degree you can do so, think the Dialogue group would be particularly interested in hearing about the active efforts underway now to negotiate an agreement in principle with Mexico in July, the plan to reengage in substantive negotiations with China on fundamental, structural reform in mid-July, and any efforts to open up trade talks with Asia-Pacific countries, particularly Japan. Don't think that needs to include the entire trade team (with the possible exception of Jason Hafemeister) so as to not get too far into the weeds where your team might not want to engage quite yet.

Hope this helps, but glad to call to discuss further if you think helpful.

All the best, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:57 AM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell. Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Hey again, Randy. We should probably be clear about expectations on this. Do you want me to try to pull in Ted and the trade team? How big is the group? I am copying Campbell Shuford here, who can work with Julie Gordon to see what our options are for me personally.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 4:09:38 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July



Great, Ray! Let me see if I can get a venue. Is there ever a "good time" of day for you? Prefer morning or afternoon? Again, many thanks. Will give a good opportunity to start sending some pro-trade messaging.

Best wishes, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:59 PM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: Re: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

July 5 or 6 could work because he's on the road.

We are at CME now and will give you a readout when back in DC.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 3:51:39 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Ray,

I trust this finds you doing well, and thanks to you and Secretary Perdue for what our gang of 4 thought was a very good and productive meeting with the Vice President last week. We met via conference call yesterday to make further progress on the CEO visit following your conversation with Randy Russell.

In the aftermath of that meeting – and in your new capacity as USDA Chief of Staff – Gary Martin and I were wondering if you'd be willing and available to meet with the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in the near future. This is the same group you met with while at the White House, and I think some of the positive trade messaging that occurred during the VP meeting would be good for this group to hear from you/USDA.

Totally your call on whether to also involve Under Secretary McKinney in such a session.

Just let me know at your convenience what date(s) might work for you sometime in July for 60 minutes or so. Would any of the following work: July 5-12, July 23, July 27?

Many thanks, and thanks again for your continuing great work within the Administration and on behalf of the nation!



Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202



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Stephen Censky's alias email

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Subject: Re: Could you please give me a call if you have a minute on the China Weed Seed Issue? Direct Line is 202-888-

1091

Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 2:15:55 AM

Attachments: <u>image004.png</u>

Ok. Thanks. I will call Greg and then call randy.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 27, 2017, at 2:42 PM, Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC < Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov > wrote:

FYI. I've been contacted a few times about this over the break. (b) (5) - Deliberative . Let me know.

Thanks!

Brooke

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > Date: December 27, 2017 at 4:25:47 PM EST

To: Steve Censky < stephen.Censky@osec.usda.gov >

Cc: "brooke.appleton@osec.usda.gov"

 brooke.appleton@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Could you please give me a call if you have a minute on

the China Weed Seed Issue? Direct Line is (b) (6)

Mr. Deputy Secretary,

Hope you and your family had a joyous and most blessed Christmas!

As you know, we've been working closely with your capable team at APHIS in a joint working group on the China AQSIQ weed seed issue for several months.

Given the looming Jan. 1 date for implementation of the additional declaration on phytos regarding 1 percent FM in U.S. soybean exports to China, I wanted to share a couple thoughts with you on some steps USDA may want to consider taking to ensure continued access for shipments that may exceed 1 percent.



I'll be in the office for the rest of the week, so if convenient, please give me a call if you can whenever it fits with your hectic schedule.

Continued best wishes, and a Happy New Year to you and yours, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u> | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

<image001.jpg>

<!--[if !vml]--><image004.png><!--[endif]-->2018 ANNUAL

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To: 6 - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email Subject: Date: Monday, April 23, 2018 4:33:55 PM Sir, I checked with Gabrielle regarding (b) (6) with Senator Perdue and he will be back in GA the first week of May, which is when we had discussed scheduling a dinner. Gabrielle had asked about the week of May 7, (b) (6) The next week you and Mrs. Mary will be on the bus tour. I wanted to confirm that the week of May 21 is not too late (6) ? Please let me know at your convenience. Thank you. Lauren ----Original Message----From: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) [mailto:Gabriele Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov] Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 5:04 PM To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov> Subject: RE: (b) (6) I believe the point is for (b) (6) ----Original Message----From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov> Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 5:01 PM To: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) < Gabriele Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov> Subject: Re: (b) (6) He has events the evening of the 7 and 8th. (b) (6) we may look to the week after the 13. He'll be on official travel the 13-21. Sent from my iPhone > On Apr 20, 2018, at 2:11 PM, Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) < Gabriele Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov> wrote: > The Senate is in recess that week -- DP is back in the state..... what about the following week? > ----Original Message----> From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < Lauren. Sullivan@osec.usda.gov> > Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 2:09 PM > To: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) < Gabriele_Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov> > Subject: RE: (b) (6) > Hi! Is your boss available (b) (6) the first week of May? The Secretary (b) (6) . Let me know! > ----Original Message----> From: Mary Perdue [mailto: 6] 6 > Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2018 12:50 PM > To: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) < Gabriele Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov> > Cc: Sonny Perdue (b) (6) ; Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov>



From:

Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC

```
> Subject: Re: (b) (6)
> Sounds good. Thank you.
>> On Apr 14, 2018, at 10:09 AM, Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) <Gabriele Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov> wrote:
>> Hello there! I am doing great and hope the same for you.
>> Actually Lauren and I started to discuss this on Thursday. She was going to get me some dates after the next
scheduling meeting.
                                                              . So it's on both of our lists to get done.
>> Gab
>>
>> Gabriele Forsyth
>> Scheduler
>> US Senator David Perdue
>> Direct: (202) 224-6629
>>> On Apr 14, 2018, at 7:06 AM, Mary Perdue <
                                                                           wrote:
>>> Gabrielle,
>>>
>>> Hope this note finds you well. (b) (6)
                                                           We hope to do this in the next couple of weeks;
however, we are traveling off and on, and I know David's schedule is busy as well. Lauren Sullivan is Sonny's
scheduler. Hopefully, between the three of us ladies, we can find a time that works!
>>> Thank you,
>>> Mary Perdue
>
>
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From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: FW: Draft Letter for Chris Geswein
Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 12:38:35 PM

Attachments: Secretary Perdue - Ethics Letter to Chris Geswein (1 2 2018) .docx

DRAFT Letter w Attachments.pdf

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I know that you have been incredibly busy and so, out of an abundance of care and good customer service, I just wanted to follow up to see if you had any questions or comments on the draft letter that I sent you on January 2nd.

To facilitate your review, I am re-attaching the draft letter to Mr. Chris Geswein as a WORD document as well as a PDF (the PDF version contains the attachments).

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on the draft. Many thanks! -- Stuart

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 5:35 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Draft Letter for Chris Geswein

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful New Year celebration. As requested, I am attaching a draft letter to Mr. Chris Geswein. To facilitate your review, I have attached a WORD version of the letter as well as a PDF with the two attachments referenced in the letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on the draft. Many thanks! -- Stuart



STUART BENDER

DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF ETHICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W., ROOM 347-W

Washington, DC 20250-1400

TELEPHONE: (202) 720-2251

MOBILE: (D) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-2642

☑ E-MAIL: Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov
USDA Ethics Webpage: www.ethics.usda.gov



The final version of the draft letter attached to the preceding email, totaling 2 pages, as well as duplicates of the attachments thereto, totaling 8 pages, are found at pages 81 to 90.



From: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

To: <u>Leonard Johnson</u>

 Cc:
 Larew Robert - FASContact; Zack Clark

 Subject:
 Re: Follow up from trade dialogues meeting

 Date:
 Thursday, September 6, 2018 3:50:53 PM

Thanks to you all - feel free to touch bases any time.

From: "Roger Johnson" < 10 (6) @nfudc.org > Date: Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 2:38:47 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>
Cc: "Larew Robert - FASContact" < <u>@nfudc.org</u>>, "Zack Clark" <u>@nfudc.org</u>>

Subject: RE: Follow up from trade dialogues meeting

Thanks Ray. Here are Rob's and Zack's emails as well.

BTW, in case you don't have it, my cell is (b) (6) . Use it anytime.

Roger Johnson, President National Farmers Union

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 2:36 PM **To:** Roger Johnson < (b) (6) @nfudc.org>

Subject: FW: Follow up from trade dialogues meeting

Roger,

Enjoyed chatting this afternoon.

-Ray

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, September 4, 2018 9:02 PM

To: (b) (6) @ngfa.org

Cc: Brady, Lillie J. EOP/WHO < (b) (6) >; Bonfitto, Jordan - OSEC, Washington, DC

<<u>Jordan.Bonfitto@osec.usda.gov</u>>; Brady, Lillie - OSEC, Washington, DC

<<u>Lillie.Brady@osec.usda.gov</u>>; (b) (6) @wheatworld.org

Subject: Follow up from trade dialogues meeting

Randy,



You may feel free to share this with folks who attended the dialogue last week, and I've copied Josh since he reached out (below).

The Office of Public Liaison (OPL) is the primary line of communication between the White House and the public. All meeting request for entities within the White House can be easily funneled through OPL who USDA has a great working relationship with. Tim Pataki who serves as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the Office of Public Liaison is our main point of contact and has worked in multiple components of the White House. Through our close relationship with him we are better able to funnel requests and expediate the process of putting folks in contact the correct people in the White House. Tim's e-mail is (b) (6)

Additionally, Lillie Brady, who worked with me while I was at NEC, remains in close contact with the office and White House personnel. She primarily serves in the Intergovernmental and External Affairs shop at USDA, but attends the OPL staff meetings weekly in order to maintain a close working relationship with the White House. Lillie's e-mail at USDA is Lillie.Brady@osec.usda.gov.

Hope this is helpful and that you'll let any of us know if you have questions.

Cordially, -Ray

From: "Joshua Tonsager" (b) (6) @wheatworld.org>

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 3:46:06 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: Follow up from trade dialogues meeting

Good afternoon, Mr. Starling,

I'm with the National Association of Wheat Growers and attended the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade meeting this morning. Thank you for attending and for providing very helpful updates. We also appreciate the Administration providing aid to farmers impacted by tariffs, though we do believe that impacts of the tariffs have had a greater than 14 cent per bushel impact on wheat farmers; we shared with Undersecretary McKinney and officials at OIRA that our estimate is the impact has had a roughly 75 cent per bushel impact on the price of wheat.

I'll echo some comments that were made that it would be helpful to see the economic model that was used to estimate damages and the assumptions that were made; is there any sort of formal request we need to make to the Department to access that information?

Regarding your suggestion to reach out to other offices at the White House, could you share appropriate contacts with whom it would be helpful for us to connect at the Domestic Policy Council, Council of Economic Advisers, Office of the Public Liaison, and/or OSTP?



Thank you again for your insights this morning and for the work you do at USDA!

Josh

Joshua Tonsager

Vice President of Policy and Communications National Association of Wheat Growers 415 2nd Street NE, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20002 Cell: (b) (6)

(b) (6) <u>@wheatworld.org</u>

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From: Bobby Frederick

To: Ray A. EOP/WHO Starling (raymond.starling@osec.usda.gov)

Subject: Following-Up

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 10:07:09 AM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>

Ray- Hope you're having a good week. I know we've been ships passing in the night as it's an incredibly busy time- especially with joint cell-based meat meetings with FDA.

Had hoped to tell you this directly because it's harder to do that. With another baby coming it's not a workable time to pursue that great career opportunity. Absolutely honored and consider it a career highlight that you think that highly of my abilities.

I believe life is mainly about timing. Will keep plugging away in the ag space, do my best to raise a growing family, and hopefully another opportunity presents itself in the future.

THANK YOU for your public service and the time you put in for ag.

Got to run, fire alarm just went off. -Bobby

Bobby Frederick, Director of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

National Grain and Feed Association

(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u> | (202) 289-0873 | (b) (6) (c) <u>Twitter</u> | <u>Facebook</u> | <u>LinkedIn</u>

Who We Are: NGFA represents and provides services for grain, feed and all related commercial interests. We represent more than 1,000 companies comprising about 7,000 facilities in more than 300 congressional districts. NGFA-member companies handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic & export markets.



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From: Randy Gordon
To: Ray Starling

Subject: Food and Ag Trade Dialogue Agenda and Registered Attendees

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:21:33 PM

Ray,

Forgive my delay. The agenda is very loose and informal, and we want to defer to your wishes. As a reminder, this is a totally off-the-record discussion, and we do NOT allow callins.

As we discussed, here are some topics I know the group will want to hear about from you:

- 1. The trade-mitigation economic package announced Monday, and any details you can about implementation and the consideration and timing of a second tranche of payments depending on the trade situation in December. There will be several representatives of organizations who are USDA cooperators in attendance, and believe they are (or should be) very pleased about the trade-promotion aspects of the package, so please highlight that, too.
- 2. Any insights you can share on the administration's trade strategy and upcoming initiatives, including the resumption of negotiations with Canada, the prospects for U.S.-Japan trade dialogue later this fall, and, of course, the China trade situation. Think it would be great to touch on the President and Vice President's personal interest and engagement on behalf of U.S. ag interests.
- 3. Any other pertinent trade-related developments or activities underway at USDA.
- 4. The status of efforts to fill your big shoes at the White House NEC.
- 5. Any other issues/topics you'd like to raise, including any advice regarding trademessaging coming out of the ag community!

After a short around-the-table series of self-introductions, I plan to introduce you around 10:10 am and we have an hour on the agenda for your remarks and Q&A. After your departure, we'll have brief updates from the Dialogue's NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Working Group chairs.

The list of those who have RSVP'd are listed below. Thanks again!

Randy

Here are the folks who have RSVPd

Last Name: First Name: Company:

Abou-El-

SEOUD Hanna American Soybean Association

Bacus Kent National Cattlemen's Beef Association



Banks Christopher ITOCHU International Inc.

Bedard Katherine Wine Institute

Biltchik David CIG

Black Kathleen The Coca-Cola Company Blumenthal Gary World Perspectives, Inc.

Bowen Nathan NASDA

Boyd Fran Meyers & Associates

Castaneda Jaime National Milk Producers Federation

Cavey Brian CoBank

Condon Leonard Philip Morris International Dake Marissa Michael Torrey Associates

Dean Sarah John Deere

Erickson Audrae RB

Farrell Megan The Hershey Company

Fisher Max National Grain and Feed Association

Flinn Allison Merck Animal Health

Foley Matt American Frozen Food Institute

Foley Sinead Red Flag

Foster Nancy National Renderers Association

Frederick Bobby NGFA Gallo Sarah CHS Inc

Gordon Randy National Grain and Feed Association

Grove Jason Abbott

Grueff Jim American Peanut Council Grunenfelder Brian Tuttle, Taylor and Heron

Guenther Robert United Fresh Produce Association

Gustafson Julia Corn Refiners Association

Hammer Thomas NOPA Hawley Lorraine ADM

Hayden Patrick Whitmer & Worrall LLC
Hill Lisa Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc.

Hobson Bernadette PepsiCo

Horlick Gary Law Offices of Gary N.Horlick
Houston Virginia American Seed Trade Association

Hovermale David National Oilseed Processors Association

Kinne Zach Cargill

Knigge Mary Dairy Farmers of America

Kopperud Steve SLK Strategies

LangleyReeceNational Cotton CouncilMaronRobertDistilled Spirits Council

Martin Gary NAEGA
Meads Alicia CF Industries
Moran Sarah USA Rice

Natz Kevin National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

Petges Richard Petges



Potts Julie Anna North American Meat Institue
Randel Lowell Global Cold Chain Alliance
Roberts Ken MONDELEZ INTERNATIONAL

Salmonsen David American Farm Bureau Federation

Santiago Claudia Conagra

Shipman Hunt Cornerstone Government Affairs
Shorts Dan National Confectioners Association

Sleight Tom U.S. Grains Council

Smith Meghan National Restaurant Association
Smoyer Paige North American Millers' Association

Steiner Eric Elanco Animal Health

Stewart John American Feed Industry Association

Sturgeon Lauren CoBank

Tabor Peter Pet Food Institute

Thompson Anne Bunge

Mary

Toker Catherine General Mills, Inc.

Tonsager Joshua National Association of Wheat Growers
Weber McNitt Lesly National Corn Growers Association
Westman William North American Meat Institute



From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Vaden, Stephen - OGC

Subject: FW: Food Bank Letter per Stewart Bloodworth
Date: Thursday, July 26, 2018 9:12:10 AM

Attachments: 20180724145246822.pdf

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2018 5:55 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Fwd: Food Bank Letter per Stewart Bloodworth

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jessica Perdue perdue.pro>

Date: Wed, Jul 25, 2018 at 5:34 PM

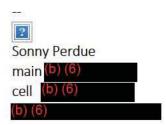
Subject: Food Bank Letter per Stewart Bloodworth

To: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Mr. Stewart Bloodworth (b) (6)) stopped by about this letter as it relates to a food bank they were working with in Tennessee. Mr. Riley Hunt set up the trip(home: (b) (6) ; cell: (b) (6) and would have details about the food bank name as well as the best contact.

Mr. Stewart is concerned that you may not be aware such a notice went out, he feels the current US administration would not support such a view. The funds were cut off when presented with the stipulation that no religious material could accompany any food distribution. The organization refused to sign off on the letter and as a result have struggled to keep stock up to furnish food to families.

Jessica





Food and Nutrition Service

DATE:

November 28, 2016

Park Office Center FD-142: The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP),

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

3101 Park Center Drive Alexandria VA 22302 SUBJECT:

POLICY NO:

Further Clarification on the Prohibition Against Explicitly Religious

Activities As Part of TEFAP and CSFP Activities

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification on "explicitly religious activities" per 7 CFR Part 16 and provide specific examples related to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) overarching regulation on equal opportunity for religious organizations to participate in USDA assistance programs can be found at 7 CFR Part 16. The final rule entitled Federal Agency Final Regulations Implementing Executive Order 13559: Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnerships With Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations (Final Rule) amended 7 CFR Part 16. The preamble to that Final Rule directed agencies to provide policy guidance or reference materials on a number of program-specific topics, including program specific examples of explicitly religious activities.

Consistent with that direction, FNS issued <u>Policy Memorandum FD-138: Written Notice and Referral Requirements for Beneficiaries Receiving TEFAP and CSFP Benefits from Religious Organizations</u> in order to provide policy guidance on the regulation's written notice and referral requirements for religious organizations that receive USDA Foods or administrative funding as part of TEFAP or CSFP. At this time, we are providing additional policy guidance in this memorandum and in <u>Policy Memorandum FD-141: Questions and Answers Related to the 7 CFR Part 16: Equal Opportunity for Religious Organizations Final Rule</u>.

Explicitly Religious Activities

The Final Rule amended 7 CFR Part 16 by replacing the term "inherently religious activities" with the term "explicitly religious activities" throughout the regulation. Per federal regulations at 7 CFR Part 16.4:

- Organizations may not engage in explicitly religious activities as part of TEFAP or CSFP. This includes activities that involve overt religious content, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization.
- If there is an explicitly religious activity that takes place at the distribution site, it must be separate in time or location from the provision of TEFAP or CSFP services.
 - O Separate in time or location means that if there is an explicitly religious activity happening in the same location it must be at a different time than

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- the provision of TEFAP or CSFP services or if an explicitly religious activity is happening at the same time it must be in a different location than the provision of TEFAP or CSFP services. There can be no overlap.
- Organizations must not require program beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries
 to participate in explicitly religious activities in order to receive TEFAP or CSFP
 services. Participation in any explicitly religious activities must be voluntary.
- Organizations cannot use TEFAP or CSFP funds to support any explicitly religious activities, speech, or materials.

Program Specific Examples for Organizations Operating TEFAP or CSFP

It is acceptable to	It is unacceptable to
Have a cross hanging on a wall at the food distribution facility.	Require beneficiaries to stand by the cross and recite a prayer prior to receiving USDA Foods.
Have a menorah on a table at the USDA Foods distribution facility during the holiday season.	Refuse USDA Foods to beneficiaries who do not practice the Jewish faith.
Have a display stand at the front/back of the USDA Foods distribution facility that contains faith-based pamphlets for anyone interested.	Insert faith-based pamphlets in bags or boxes when distributing USDA Foods.
Have a pastor or other religious official assist with the distribution of USDA Foods.	Require or encourage beneficiaries to have a religious conversation with the pastor or official prior to receiving USDA Foods.
Have a prayer service on the second level of a church building while the distribution of USDA Foods is happening on the lower level.	Have a prayer service in the same room and at the same time as the distribution of USDA Foods.
Invite beneficiaries to participate in a voluntary prayer before, and clearly separate from, the distribution of USDA Foods.	Lead beneficiaries in a prayer at the beginning of the distribution of USDA Foods.

If a local or eligible recipient agency is unsure of whether or not a specific activity is explicitly religious, they can contact their State agency, which can in turn contact the appropriate FNS regional office for assistance.

/s/ Original Signature on File Laura Castro Director Food Distribution Division



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The Chattanooga Area Food Bank USDA (TEFAP) Food Distribution Partner Agreement

The terms of the following Agreement have been agreed upon and understood by the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and	
(please print USDA Partner Agency Name)	
(please print Partner Agency Number).	
By signing this agreement, both parties acknowledge their respective duties and responsibilities related to the distribution of USDA food products under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).	
 The USDA Partner Agency Agrees To: Properly determine clients' eligibility to receive USDA food products. Distribute USDA food products to each eligible household (not individual) no more than once per calendar month. Store all USDA food products separately from other food pantry/soup kitchen foods. This includes dry, refrigerated and frozen products. All USDA food product storage (shelving, refrigerators and freezers) must be labeled as "USDA", stored at least 6" off the floor and away from the wall. Distribute all USDA food products using "First In First Out" plan and distribute within a month of receipt. Prominently display the "And Justice For All" civil rights poster. Complete and submit the USDA Monthly Inventory report by the 5th of the month. Failure to do so can result in the USDA Partner Agency being put on USDA hold until requirements are met. Follow all other guidelines set forth in the Chattanooga Area Food Bank USDA Partner Agency Manual. Follow all other guidelines set forth by Chattanooga Area Food Bank and Feeding America as outlined in the Member Agency Agreement and/or any other agreement entered into with Chattanooga Area Food Bank. Communicate problems and requests to Chattanooga Area Food Bank in a timely manner. Must keep records of daily roster sheets and temperature logs for at least 3 years. Must have set hours displayed indicating when TEFAP product will be distributed. If religious activities are occurring onsite there must be a definitive separation of these activities. Must adhere to USDA guidelines regarding religious activities. 	
 The Chattanooga Area Food Bank Agrees To: Provide training and guidance on proper storage of USDA food products and completion of required monthly forms. Respond to USDA Partner Agency problems and requests in a timely manner. Provide the "And Justice For All" civil rights poster and necessary forms/paperwork to be completed and returned each month. Receive and store USDA food products, and make those USDA food products available to all USDA Partner Agencies. This Agreement may be terminated at will by either party with written notice. Upon termination of this agreement, the USDA Partner Agency will submit any remaining USDA paperwork and return any unused USDA food products to the 	
Chattanooga Area Food Bank within 14 days of termination date.	
The Chattanooga Area Food Bank prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.	
USDA Partner Agency Principal or Executive Director Date	
Chattanooga Area Food Bank Agency Relations Manager Date	
(initial) I have read and understand the USDA Partner Agency Manual supplied to me.	



From: <u>Johansson, Robert - OCE</u>

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC; Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC

Subject: FW: hey

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 11:06:23 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

NGFA and NAEGA Talking Points for Meeting with OMB (Oct. 30 2018).pdf

Hi,

We met with the NCGA folks today. They are going to be sending a letter in soon to ask us to include trade damage to ethanol and DDGS in the corn MFP payment. (b) (5) Deliberative

I pointed out that (b) (5) Deliberative

I pointed out (b) (5) Deliberative

They plan to go to talk with OMB as well.

On that note, the readout from NGFA on their meeting with OMB budget is below (their talking points are attached).

Cheers,

Rob

From: Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 10:15 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: hey

We met with the Ag branch and from our point-of-view it seemed like a good meeting. In the meeting we discussed the damaged soybeans in the lower Mississippi River region and the reduced ability for grain companies to blend the damaged soybeans due to the smaller export program. We also talked about past federal government responses to periods of oversupply that were partially caused by export disruptions — 1980s. Our main gain was to stress the need for market fundamentals be the determinate for producer planting and marketing decisions. The handout we covered in the meeting is attached.

The latest I've heard on soybean damage discounts is that Arkansas is having as hard of a time with soybean harvest as any place. There is damage in the soybeans and periodic rains have caused



frequent delays in the harvesting and created a sense of urgency to harvest whenever possible, even if the soybean moisture content is too high. As a result, there have been soybeans harvested at a high moisture content – greater than 13% - and this has stressed the ability of grain companies to handle the glut of wet soybeans. Some grain warehouses in that area don't have grain dryers and they've been forced to turn away loads of soybeans with excessively high moisture content. Other grain warehouses have dryers, but only have enough drying capacity to handle a fraction of the volume of soybeans they are capable of accepting. For example, a grain warehouse might be able to accept 250,000 bushels per day, but they can only dry 50,000 bushels per day. For facilities with dryers, they've had to make decisions on their ability to handle the wet soybeans and this has been partially based on weather forecasts. For example, if the weather forecast is calling for rain tomorrow, which would keep farmers out of the fields for a few days, then the grain company might decide to go ahead and accept delivery of a lot of wet soybeans on the hope that they will be able to dry them over a period of days while farmers are unable to deliver due to wet conditions. From what I understand, wet soybeans have a short shelf-life, so it really is important to have the capability to dry them quickly.

I've heard other areas of the lower Mississippi River region are further along in soybean harvest, for example Mississippi is nearly complete. I've also heard there are pockets of damage in other regions like lowa, but only pockets, on the whole the situation in lowa is not overly troubling. For the most part, I've heard the soybeans in the Dakotas and Corn Belt have been in good condition.

You may be aware, NGFA along with American Soybean Association, Farm Bureau and a couple other groups have been invited to a meeting with RMA at the end of next to discuss soybean damage. I assume it is to discuss the quality adjustment for crop insurance for future years, but I don't know for sure.

If you need more detailed information on the soybean damage, just let me know and I'll make some calls.

Max

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE < RJohansson@oce.usda.gov >

Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2018 9:38 AM

To: Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: hey

How did you meeting with OMB go?
Also, do you have some more discount info that you can share?
Cheers,
Rob





Robert Johansson, Chief Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Whitten Building, Room 112-A
Washington, DC 20250-3810
202-720-4164 & 202-720-5955
thtps://www.usda.gov/OCE/

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National Grain and Feed Association North American Export Grain Association

1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260, Arlington, VA, 22202 Phone: 202-289-0873 (NGFA); 202-682-4030 (NAEGA)

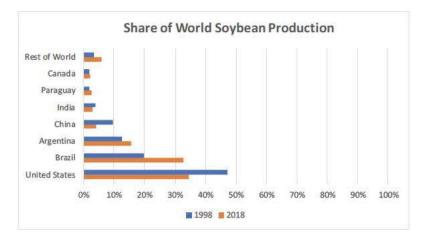
October 30, 2018

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) offers the following input on the second phase of its Market Facilitation Program. We also provide observations on weather-induced soybean damage conditions in several Southeastern states that may warrant consideration in this regard.

Market Facilitation Program

- NGFA and NAEGA believe the Market Facilitation Program should be structured in a way that encourages continued selling of farmer grain in response to market signals, and does not provide an artificial inducement for producers to hold stocks off the market, which would lead to further loss of U.S. export market share and result in an increased build-up of carryover stocks and prolong depressed market prices.
- NGFA and NAEGA request that the announcement of the amount of the second tranche of payments be made by early December (e.g., Dec. 3) to provide certainty to producers and minimize potential impacts on marketing decisions. Also, the timing of payments will be important for producers to manage their individual tax implications.
- NGFA and NAEGA request that OMB and USDA provide as much clarity as
 possible as soon as possible on whether additional trade-mitigation payments will
 be considered beyond 2018. We are cognizant of Secretary of Agriculture Sonny
 Perdue's recent statements that market facilitation payments will not be continued in
 2019. Our strong preference is that market fundamentals be the determinate for
 producer planting and marketing decisions.
- The global soybean market situation is incentivizing the storage of this year's U.S. soybeans and the sale of South American soybeans. The market also is incentivizing U.S. farmers to produce fewer soybeans in 2019 and for South American farmers to produce more. The loss of the Chinese market for U.S. soybeans is resulting in a severe restructuring of trade flows and has great potential to incentivize other countries to expand their production and likely lead to long-term loss of market share for U.S. agriculture.

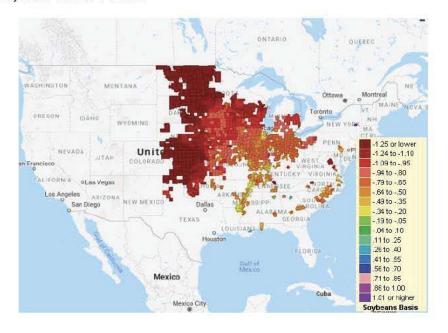




Damaged Soybeans

- In addition to depressed soybean prices, farmers in the lower Mississippi River region experienced prolonged wet weather that delayed their fall 2018 harvest and resulted in weather-damaged soybeans. Because of the large volume of damaged soybeans and the limited export volume for blending, the damaged soybean market became saturated and higher than normal damage discounts were applied. The situation was exacerbated by the acute shortage of storage space in the region, as these elevators typically are largely "throughput" facilities that primarily supply soybeans to export elevators in the region.
- Elevators at the Gulf worked with farmers as much as possible to find a market for damaged soybeans, including non-traditional, more costly options like shipping damaged soybeans upriver to what would normally be considered illogical domestic destinations or storing the damaged soybeans and risking further deterioration. In most cases, crop insurance will not cover any of the financial losses because yield losses were not severe and crop insurance adjustments to yields based on damage were not on par with marketplace discounts.

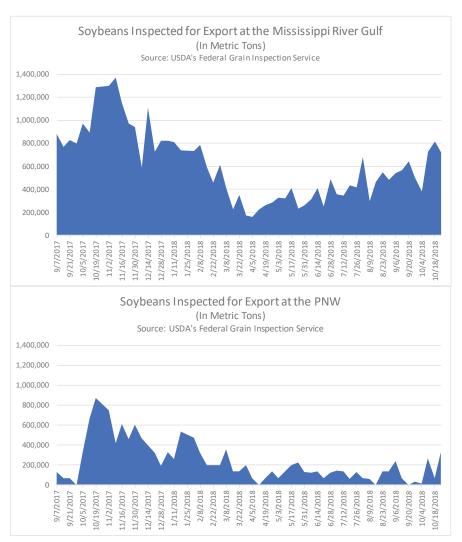
Futures, Basis, and Cash Prices





Soybean Export Observations

- Soybean exporters in the Gulf are running at roughly half their normal export level and PNW soybean exporters are in even worse shape.
- Even under a favorable economic advantage, U.S. soybean exporters believe there
 is too much risk of rejection by the Chinese government for U.S. soybean cargos to
 enter China. U.S. soybean exporters also believe transshipments of U.S. soybeans
 from Canadian ports or other staging ports carries too much risk.
- The large corn and soybean crops, combined with the absence of the Chinese soybean market, unsurprisingly is creating extremely tight storage conditions throughout the corn and soybean belt, which is reflected in basis levels. This is resulting in more emergency storage (ground piles) of corn, and greater quality risk for commercial handlers that will put a real strain on the system in the spring when the ground piles need to be relocated to permanent storage or shipped. A surge in demand for rail, truck and barge transportation at high rates is expected.
- Finally, the compromised U.S. situation has led to opportunistic antidumping and countervailing investigations by U.S. customers as they seek to gain an upper hand.





From: Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: David Perdue

Subject: Fwd: In GOP runoff for governor, keep your eye on those Perdue cousins

Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 3:49:17 PM

b) (6)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC" < Michawn.Rich@oc.usda.gov >

Date: May 24, 2018 at 10:54:51 AM EDT

To: '(b) (6) Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: "Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC" < Heidi. Green@osec.usda.gov >,

"Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC"

< Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>, "Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC"

< Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov >, "Cole, Donald - OC, Washington, DC"

<<u>Donald.Cole@oc.usda.gov</u>>, "Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC"

< Meghan.Rodgers@oc.usda.gov >, "Wilkins, Jake - OSEC, Washington, DC"

< <u>Jake.Wilkins@osec.usda.gov</u>>, "Mizrahi, Ella - OC, Washington, DC"

<Ella.Mizrahi@oc.usda.gov>

Subject: In GOP runoff for governor, keep your eye on those Perdue cousins

In GOP runoff for governor, keep your eye on those Perdue cousins

Tamar Hallerman, Jim Galloway, Greg Bluestein 5.24.18
AJC

The point of Wednesday's call was to get Michael Thurmond's thoughts on Stacey Abrams and Democratic chances in November – and we'll get to that, eventually.

But when we finally tracked the CEO of DeKalb County down in Boston, he also had some thoughts the Republican runoff for governor. I'd posited that, if he chose, Gov. Nathan Deal could weigh in and decide the contest between Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Secretary of State Brian Kemp.

Thurmond had another bellwether in mind. Call them what you will – the Warner Robins mafia, the Houston County gang or simply the Perdue cousins. But the key to the GOP runoff, Thurmond said, is likely to be U.S. Sen. David Perdue and Sonny Perdue, the former Georgia governor and current U.S. secretary of



agriculture.

They're the pair who control Georgia access to President Donald Trump and his 80 percent approval rating among Republicans. They can bring Trump to Georgia.

"They're going to be the final arbiters of who the Republican nominee for governor is going to be," Thurmond said. "If they fall in behind Cagle, it's all over. It cuts Kemp off at the knees if he tries to be Trump and Trump isn't with him. It doesn't work. But if they go with Kemp – Kemp's going to win it."

Sidenote: You might be asking what Thurmond was doing in Massachusetts a day after the Georgia primary. He was on Dad duty: His 27-year-old daughter, Mikaya Thurmond, was being awarded her masters degree in journalism from Harvard University. She's the weekend anchor at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, N.C.

If you're Neil Warren or Butch Conway, the respective sheriffs of Cobb and Gwinnett counties, a cap may have just been put on your tenure.

On Tuesday, Democrats racked up some encouraging statewide numbers. While a handful of boxes may have still been missing, as of Wednesday afternoon, there were 606,215 ballots cast in the Republican contest for governor, and 552,784 on the Democratic side. That's a gap of only 53,431 ballots.

For Republicans, Tuesday's voting represents a 1.6 percent gain over the 596,218 ballots cast in the 2014 primary for governor. But Democrats saw a 68 percent gain over the 328,710 ballots cast in the 2014 contested primary for U.S. Senate.

But the more important numbers come from individual counties. In Gwinnett, Democrats(40,538) cast 4,374 more ballots than Republicans (36,164) on Tuesday.

In Cobb, Republicans cast 41,672 votes in their gubernatorial primary. Democrats cast 41,421. That's a difference of only 251 ballots.



In north Fulton, we have the example of the race for House District 51, a seat being given up by state Rep. Wendell Willard, R-Sandy Springs. The two primaries to replace him were uncontested, but Democrat Josh McLaurin posted 2,556 votes. Republican Alex Kaufman had 2,249. That's a 307-vote gap favoring the Democrat.

Here's a question that Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson posed on Wednesday's edition of GPB's "Political Rewind": What in the world happened to white male Democrats in Tuesday's vote?

There aren't many white men left in the Legislature's Democratic caucus, and that number took a hit.

State Rep. Darrel Ealum of Albany was ousted by an African-American challenger. And state Sen. Curt Thompson of Tucker lost to Sheikh Rahman, an immigrant from Bangladesh who highlighted his populist views.

Elsewhere on the ballot, Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson, also from Tucker, narrowly avoided a stunning upset from a former reality star who is best known for slapping another participant.

Doug Stoner, a former state senator from Smyrna, was overwhelmed by a political newcomerin one of two Public Service Commission contests. Former Georgia congressman John Barrow did win the Democratic nomination for secretary of state by beating two primary challengers -- but just barely.

Our AJC colleague Mark Neisse has more details here, but a total of eight state lawmakers were ousted in Tuesday's primaries. In the House, they were: Jason Spencer, R-Woodbine; Howard Mosby, D-Atlanta, the chair of the DeKalb



delegation; Johnnie Caldwell, R-Thomaston; John Deffenbaugh, R-Lookout Mountain; Earnest "Coach" Williams, D-Avondale Estates; Dan Gasaway, R-Homer; and Darrel Ealum, D-Albany.

In the Senate, as mentioned above, Curt Thompson, D-Tucker, was the only member of that chamber to lose his seat.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Brian Kemp's final pre-primary television ad, featuring a chainsaw, explosion and a pickup truck, won him a lot of attention -- and perhaps his spot in his party's July runoff. So this spoof caught our eye.

Democrat Josh McCall, a teacher who will face U.S. Rep. Doug Collins, R-Gainesville, in the Ninth District congressional contest this fall, has a nearly frame-for-frame reproduction -- with his own messaging.

A preview: "I'm so conservative I actually have things I want to conserve -- like the environment, Social Security and health care for my neighbors." Watch it here:

Georgia GOP mega-lawyer Randy Evans will get his big day in Washington today. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to hold a confirmation vote this afternoon on his nomination to be ambassador to Luxembourg.

It's been a long road for the longtime Newt Gingrich confidante. Read the backstory about the Senate fight surrounding his confirmation here.

Georgia Supreme Court Justice Britt Grant had her own turn in the U.S. Senate hot seat yesterday during her confirmation hearing. Grant was introduced by Georgia's two senators, Johnny Isakson and David Perdue, and she "sailed through" her Senate Judiciary hearing to be a judge on the federal appeals court in Atlanta, according to the Daily Report.



Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond, emailed us with a similar assessment:

"She was responsive to members' questions and carefully articulated the role of a federal judge and most senators appeared satisfied with her responses.

The Ga. Senators who introduced her offered powerful support. Grant has strong credentials and clerked for a respected DC Circuit judge." He predicted she'll be confirmed in the weeks ahead.

Grant's nomination, however, is not without controversy. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on Wednesday circulated a letter urging senators to reject her:

"Although she has not had controversial cases during her first year on that court, in her previous job as solicitor general of Georgia her work sought to diminish civil and human rights in America," the group wrote in its letter.

The group cites her work to overturn substantial portions of the Voting Rights Act, and her defense of a 2012 "fetal pain" law passed by the Legislature, sharply curtailing the period during which women can seek abortions.

###

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Randy Dowdy

To: Sonny Perdue Mobile; Sonny Perdue Mobile

Cc: Randy

Subject: Fwd: Information you requested.

Date: Thursday, September 6, 2018 6:00:13 PM

Get it this time?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Dowdy < (b) (6)

Date: September 6, 2018 at 4:56:55 PM CDT

To: Sonny Perdue Mobile (b) (6)

< (b) (6) osec.usda.gov > Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Randy < (b) (6) >

Subject: Fwd: Information you requested.

Let me know if you got it this time please.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Dowdy < (b) (6)

Date: September 6, 2018 at 9:29:23 AM CDT

To: Sonny Perdue Mobile (b) (6)

Cc: Randy (b) (6)

Subject: Information you requested.

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I hope these changes can be considered and make it into the discussion for this Farm Bill and immediately within FSA. Again, I'm willing to serve in any capacity that you think I could be of assistance going forward. I would do my best to be a credit to your selection processes. Thanks for taking the time to call me and for your consideration of the following matters:

1. Farmers are about to update our ARC/PLC elections and basis as I'm sure you're well aware. I have a few concerns that I feel must be addressed/revised to better serve USDA and farmers. Cropping periods considered are from 2009-2012. Why wouldn't they be revised to current year 2018 or until 2017? Farmers are being asked



to update yields from that time period. What if they didn't farm those acres from 09-12? How do they get that information? What if proven yields were better than county average? County average is what I will be forced to use if I can't provide yield data. Farm land changes hands and some beginning farmers like myself will be punished by these rules if enforced as explained by local FSA representatives.

2. Why aren't base acres calculated from what is actually planted each given year? This seems to be a more logical, fair and modern way to handle a very antiquated and seemingly biased format and procedure.

Points of Consideration:

Farms "earned" commodity base through most of the late $20^{\mbox{th}}$ century.

Peanut base did not exist prior to the 2002 Farm Bill. In a unique instance, peanut base was created in 2002 from the producer's recent planting history. The producer had six months to attach the base to land. No commodity base has been created since the 2002 Farm Bill. Each landowner had the choice of updating his farm's bases in 2014 to reflect more recent plantings but the total sum of all covered commodity base acres could not be increased.

Today there is just over 2,000,000 acres of peanut base. A record peanut acreage of 1.8 million acres were planted in 2017. Typically, the U.S. plants around 1.5 million acres of peanuts. Approximately half of those acres are planted on farms with no peanut base.

The 2002 Farm bill eliminated the peanut quota. That allowed peanuts to be produced for the domestic market anywhere in the U.S. Acreage increased in South Carolina, in East Georgia, in North Central Florida and even in Mississippi.

This acreage increase was necessary to fill the growing market for peanuts. From 2002 to 2017 the domestic market for peanuts increased from 1 million tons of farmerstock to over 2 million tons of farmerstock. Farm commodity base acres are to provide a safety net for that commodity's producers in times of low prices. Because no new peanut base has been created since 2002 (other than shifting from other commodities on the farm) many peanut farmers who have been growing peanuts for fifteen years have no real safety net.

There have been farmers and landowners drawing base payments and CRP payments on the same acre that currently is



planted in trees. That just doesn't seem fair for those that actually still plant row crops, manage and take the risk, and do so without a safety net.

3. Why are FSA county committees making decisions on prevent planting claims? I feel the insurance companies, which are monitored by RMA, should be determining eligibility of prevent planting. In my opinion, there is no good reason why FSA should be involved in this matter whatsoever. Money for approval or disapproval doesn't come from FSA so why should they be involved? FSA committees currently base their decision of approval or disapproval of prevent planting claims on what other farmers are doing on their farms. No account for different soil types or different farming practices are taken into consideration. No committee member makes field visits to verify a claim. No committee member knows rainfall on that farm vs other farms and we both know it can rain differing amounts or not rain on farms across the road from one another. Yet, FSA committee members have exercised their power to deny my claims that ultimately overrode approval of my prevent planting insurance claims. These were submitted and approved by two separate insurance adjusters that personally went to those two farms on 6+ different occasions and verified my claims of the farms being too wet to plant. These two nonirrigated farms were too dry to plant until a tropical storm came in early May and delivered 13" of rain. Then, the farm immediately shifted from too dry to too wet. Since the tropical storm, the two farms received over 50" of rain from early May until mid August. This is our average yearly rainfall yet we received those amounts in

This is our average yearly rainfall yet we received those amounts in 100 days. I was in constant contact with my insurance provider and notified him in late April and early May of our drought situation and then continued contact throughout our present "wet" state. Those two farms still have approximately 60 acres out of 200 that remain unplanted because of too wet conditions. We were able to "mud in" and plant in parts of the fields in late July but this was less than ideal but we felt we had no other choice.

My prevent planting claim was denied by FSA; and, as an explanation, I was told by FSA that I planted other farms during the "normal" time period and that my management decision to not plant those farms was my choice. I planted those farms because they were either irrigated which allowed me to plant during the drought period or had soil types that were well drained which allowed me to plant when it was wet after the first storm. I felt I used very good farming practices and judgment to maximize my opportunity to make a good crop. What the committee assumed incorrectly is that I must only have one planter since I was planting other farms.

That is incorrect. I have two planters and one of my planters was on the affected farms for over 60 days with a tractor attached ready to



begin planting once conditions were acceptable. Landowners, planter manufacturers, my farm labor, my family members, insurance personnel (to include two separate adjusters) have and are willing to verify my claims that the fields were first too dry to plant and then extreme changes occurred and have persisted with too wet of conditions for planting.

This is a prime example of how common sense and human verification should always override a standard that simply considers when others "reportedly planted" in the area. Who verified these "planted" dates as reported by other growers are true and accurate? Yet, we are judged by such a flawed and unverified process. Again, please pass this along as appropriate and I hope we can see changes in this next Farm Bill and how FSA does business going forward.

Thanks again for your consideration in these matters,

Warm regards, Randy



From: Randy Gordon

To: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

Subject: RE: Know You"re Swamped, but Have Time for a Quick Call on Trade Today? Direct line: 202-888-1091. Thanks!

Date: Monday, July 16, 2018 1:22:00 PM

Will do! Thanks!

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 1:19 PM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: Re: Know You're Swamped, but Have Time for a Quick Call on Trade Today? Direct line:



. Thanks!

Hey Randy - call my cell tomorrow morning around 7:30 am while I'm driving in if that works for you.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Monday, July 16, 2018 at 9:39:41 AM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Know You're Swamped, but Have Time for a Quick Call on Trade Today? Direct line:



. Thanks!

Ray, (b) (6) . This certainly can

wait until you return! Thanks—Randy

From: Randy Gordon

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 12:12 PM

To: Ray Starling < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: Know You're Swamped, but Have Time for a Quick Call on Trade Today? Direct line:



Thanks!

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 5:21:40 PM

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Ray A. Starling USDA

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC **Sent:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018 5:03:47 PM **To:** Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

(b) (6)

5

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org> Sent: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 4:16 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell. Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Yes. Sounds good! Just curious- is this scheduled as heading with him to grab lunch or an in office meeting? Fine either way.

B

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 9, 2018, at 3:46 PM, Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Bobby,

Can you do 12PM tomorrow?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Friday, October 5, 2018 11:22:33 AM
To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Great. Will hold this time and stay tuned!



b

Bobby Frederick
Director of Legislative Affairs
National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 4:23 PM

To: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: RE: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Great, we will plan on that for now. We are 1400 Jefferson Drive SW (2nd floor, the Secretary's office) Whitten Building. When you arrive, please check in with front desk security and they will send you up!

Campbell

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 4:08 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

That would work for me! Will stay tuned.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 4, 2018, at 4:02 PM, Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Bobby,

We may be able to do the 10th at 11:30AM. I have to balance his schedule with the Secretary's, so let me get back to you to confirm, but wanted to do initial outreach to you to see if that might work.

Campbell

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 2:48:56 PM
To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Ray- I hope you and your family have been doing well.



Our texts and calls have been ships passing in the night which I feel badly about.

Might you have time to grab coffee or lunch (or even breakfast) sometime in the next couple of weeks?

October 10th, 12th, 15th, 18th 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th.

Thanks for the work you're putting in and service you're providing to Ag.

-Bobby

Bobby Frederick, Director of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy National Grain and Feed Association

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (202) 289-0873 | (b) (6) (c) <u>Twitter</u> | <u>Facebook</u> | <u>LinkedIn</u> <image001.jpg>

Who We Are: NGFA represents and provides services for grain, feed and all related commercial interests. We represent more than 1,000 companies comprising about 7,000 facilities in more than 300 congressional districts. NGFA-member companies handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic & export markets.

<image002.png>

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From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2018 4:00:40 PM

Attachments: <u>image002.png</u>

The 10th at 11:30AM should work. SP is scheduled to do video recording during that time. Am I okay to confirm?

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 3:35 PM

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < Campbell. Shuford@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Just find 30 min for me to meet with Bobby next week if possible

Ray A. Starling USDA

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > Sent: Thursday, October 4, 2018 2:48:56 PM To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Lunch or Coffee or Breakfast Catch Up this month?

Ray- I hope you and your family have been doing well.

Our texts and calls have been ships passing in the night which I feel badly about.

Might you have time to grab coffee or lunch (or even breakfast) sometime in the next couple of weeks?

October 10th, 12th, 15th, 18th 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 26th.

Thanks for the work you're putting in and service you're providing to Ag.

-Bobby

Bobby Frederick, Director of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy

National Grain and Feed Association

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (202) 289-0873 | (b) (6) (c) <u>Twitter</u> | <u>Facebook</u> | <u>LinkedIn</u>

Who We Are: NGFA represents and provides services for grain, feed and all related commercial interests. We represent more than 1,000 companies comprising about 7,000 facilities in more than 300 congressional districts. NGFA-member companies handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic & export markets.



From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: FW: Mr. Geswein--Attached is the letter you requested

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 10:08:46 AM
Attachments: Ethics Letter to Chris Geswein.pdf

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As a follow up to our conversation this morning, I just spoke with Mr. Geswein. He informed that he had inadvertently overlooked the earlier January 16 e-mail I had previously sent to him. He has that e-mail as well my re-sent e-mail below. He apologized and said that he would let me know if he requires anything further. Thank you. -- Stuart

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:59 AM

To: 'Geswein, Chris' < (b) (6) @adm.com>

Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: FW: Mr. Geswein--Attached is the letter you requested

Mr. Geswein,

Out of an abundance, attached is the letter you requested. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you. -- Stuart Bender

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 2:24 PM

To: 'Geswein, Chris' < (b) (6) @adm.com>

Subject: Mr. Geswein--Attached is the letter you requested

Mr. Geswein,

Attached is the letter you requested. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you. -- Stuart Bender



STUART BENDER
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF ETHICS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W., ROOM 347-W

Washington, DC 20250-1400

TELEPHONE: (202) 720-2251

Mobile: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-2642

☑ E-MAIL: <u>Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov</u>USDA Ethics Webpage: <u>www.ethics.usda.gov</u>





United States Department of Agriculture

January 2, 2018

Office of Ethics

1400 Independence Avenue, SW, J.L. Whitten Building Room 347-W Washington, DC 20250-2120

Chris Geswein ADM Soy Processing Loc 063 4666 East Faries Parkway Decatur, IL. 62526

(202) 720-2251

Dear Mr. Geswein:

I am writing at the request of Mr. George Ervin (Sonny) Perdue III, who serves our nation as the 31st Secretary of Agriculture. This letter confirms that Secretary Perdue was required by Federal ethics laws to divest himself of certain assets, described below, to avoid potential conflicts of interest with his official duties as the Secretary of Agriculture.

As brief background, the position of Secretary of Agriculture is a Cabinet-level appointment in the Executive Branch requiring nomination by the President of the United States and the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. As part of the nomination process, both I and officials at the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), an independent Federal agency, conducted an ethics review to determine whether any financial assets would create a conflict of interest under Federal laws. As a result of that review, and to comply with Federal ethics laws (codified at 18 U.S.C. § 208), OGE required Secretary Perdue to sign an Ethics Agreement in which he agreed to restructure his then-existing family trusts so that all financial interests in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. (including AgroStar, LLC) would be transferred, within 90 days of the date of his confirmation, into two new irrevocable trusts in which the Secretary and his wife would not be the beneficiaries or trustees of these new trusts. The Secretary's Ethics Agreement is enclosed as Attachment A.

Within 90 days of his Senate confirmation, Secretary Perdue certified his timely compliance with the terms of his Ethics Agreement in a Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance, enclosed as Attachment B. In the Certification, Secretary Perdue certified that:

All financial interests in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc., held through the Perdue Family Revocable Management Trust and the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust, have been transferred into the two new irrevocable trusts, consistent with the terms of my ethics agreement. My wife and I are not beneficiaries of these new trusts, nor are we trustees.



Letter to Chris Geswein January 2, 2018 Page 2

In sum, as referenced in these two documents, Secretary Perdue was required to, and did, divest his ownership in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc., which was formerly held through the Perdue Family Revocable Management Trust and the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust, to avoid violation of Federal conflict of interest laws.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-2251 or via e-mail at Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

Stuart Bender

Director
USDA Office of Ethics

Attachments: Ethics Agreement

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance



Attachment A



March 7, 2017

Mr. Stuart Bender
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

I am the sole owner of Perdue Properties LLC and Perdue Real Estate Holdings LLLP. These entities are dormant and have no assets and generate no income. During my appointment to the position of Secretary of Agriculture, these entities will remain dormant. I will not perform any services for these entities, except that I will comply with any requirements involving legal filings, taxes and fees that are necessary to maintain these entities while they are dormant. As Secretary of Agriculture, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of either of these entities, unless I first obtain a written waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the National Grain and Feed Association, Perdue Management Holdings LLC, the Bipartisan Policy Center Governor's Council, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, and Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. For a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

My wife and I are co-trustees and sole beneficiaries of the Perdue Family Revocable
Management Trust, and my wife is the trustee and one of the beneficiaries of the Perdue Family
Wealth Preservation Trust, an irrevocable trust. The Perdue Family Revocable Management Trust
holds all of the voting stock in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc., and the Perdue Family Wealth
Preservation Trust holds all of the non-voting stock in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. An appointment



Mr. Stuart Bender Page 2

committee of the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust has the power to appoint some part or all of the assets of that trust to my wife or adult non-dependent children, whether outright or in further trust.

Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will cause these trusts to be restructured such that I will revoke the Perdue Family Revocable Management Trust and transfer all of its stock in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. into a new, irrevocable trust ("New Family Management Trust") that will not benefit me or my spouse. Neither I nor my wife will serve as trustee of the New Family Management Trust. Until the steps outlined in this paragraph are completed, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the Perdue Family Revocable Management Trust or any of its underlying holdings.

Within 90 days of my confirmation, the appointment committee for the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust will appoint all of its stock in Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. to a new, irrevocable trust ("New Wealth Preservation Trust") that will not benefit me or my spouse. Neither I nor my wife will serve as trustee of the New Wealth Preservation Trust, and the trust document for the New Wealth Preservation Trust will expressly prohibit its appointment committee from appointing trust assets to me or my spouse. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust, or any of its underlying holdings, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

I currently hold a promissory note from AGrowStar, LLC, a company owned by Perdue Business Holdings, Inc. The Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust (and its successor the New Wealth Preservation Trust) will guarantee timely payments on this promissory note. Until this promissory note has been repaid in full, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of AGrowStar, LLC, as guaranteed by the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust (and its successor the New Wealth Preservation Trust), to repay this note, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

I also currently hold a promissory note from the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust. Payment obligations on this promissory note will be transferred to its successor the New Wealth Preservation Trust. Until this note has been repaid in full, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of the Perdue Family Wealth Preservation Trust or its successor the New Wealth Preservation Trust to repay this note, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the exemption at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order no.



Mr. Stuart Bender Page 3

13770) and that I will be bound by the requirements and restrictions therein in addition to the commitments I have made in this ethics agreement.

I will meet in person with you during the first week of my service in the position of Secretary of Agriculture in order to complete the initial ethics briefing required under 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will document my compliance with this ethics agreement by notifying you in writing when I have completed the steps described in this ethics agreement.

I have been advised that this ethics agreement will be posted publicly, consistent with 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

George Ervin Perdue III



Attachment B



U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance (May 2017 version)

٠	CERTIFICATION OF ETHICS AG Senate Confirmed President				
:	a, Appointee's Name;	to be completed by OGE George Ervin Perdue III (Sonny Perdue)			
	b. Position Title:	to be completed by OGE Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture			
1,	c. Agency:	to be completed by OGE U,S, Department of Agriculture			
Appointec's Information	d. Date Ethics Agreement Signed:	to be completed by OGE March 7, 2017			
	e. Date Confirmed:	to be completed by OGE April 24, 2017			
14	f. Due Date for Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance:	to be completed by OGE July 31, 2017			
2. Resignations	I completed all of the resignations indicated in my ethics agreement before I assumed the duties of my current government position.	● Yes ONo ON/A			
3.	a. I have completed all of the divestitures indicated in my ethics agreement. I also understand that I may not repurchase these assets during my appointment without OGE's prior approval.	● Yes ○No ○N/A			
Divestitures	b. I have filed a period transaction report, or periodic transaction reports, (OGE Form 278-T) to disclose the completion of these agreed upon divestitures.	OYes ONo ON/A			
		Filing Date(s) of OGE Form 278-T Report(s):			
4. Managed Accounts	If I have a managed account or use the services of an investment professional, I have notified the manager or professional of the limitations indicated in my ethics agreement. In addition, I am continuing to monitor purchases.	Yes ONO ON/A			
5. Interim Recusals	I complied with my interim recusal obligations pending the divestitures required by my ethics agreement.	Yes ONO ON/A			

THIS CERTIFICATION WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING ON OGE'S WEBSITE. 1



U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance (May 2017 version)

George Ervin Perdue III (Sonny Perdue)

	a. I am recusing from particular matters in which I know I have a <u>personal</u> or <u>imputed</u> financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I have received a waiver or qualify for a regulatory exemption.	Ycs	Оио	
6. Recusals	b. I am recusing from particular matters in which any former employer or client I served in the past year is a party or represents a party, unless I have been authorized under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).	(O) Yes	ΟNο	On/a
	c. I am recusing from particular matters in which any former employer or client I served in the two years prior to my appointment is a party or represents a party, unless I have received a waiver under Exec. Order 13770.	⊚ Yes	ON _o	On/A
	a. I received a waiver pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208.	O Yes	©N₀	W)
7. Waivers and	If yes, indicate the date of the walver and indicate the financial interest covered by the walver.	Date: Financial interest:	-	
Authorizations	b. I received a waiver pursuant to Executive Order 13770.	Yes	ЮNo	
*	If yes, indicate the date of the walver and the subject of the walver (i.e., applicable paragraph of the ethics pledge, parties, particular matters, specific issue areas, as applicable).	Date: Şubject:		v v
TQ"	c. I received an authorization pursuant to 5 G.F.R. § 2635.502(d).	O Yes	(No	
	If yes, indicate date of authorization and identify the covered person(s) as to whom you have been authorized (e.g., former employer, former client, spouse's employer, spouse's current client, etc.).	Date: Covered person(s):		
	d. I received a waiver pursuant to 5 C.F.R. \$ 2635.503(c).	Yes	⊚ No	
(E)		Date: Former employer or	payen	
	If yes, indicate the date of the waiver and identify the former employer or payer.	3. 8 3.00	× * * * * *	

THIS CERTIFICATION WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING ON OGE'S WEBSITE. 2



U.S. OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS Certification of Bithics Agreement Compliance (May 2017 version)

George Ervin Perdue III (Sonny Perdue)

Payments, Accelerations, or Divestitures Required to be Completed Prior to Entering Government	Mark this box if not applicable:	a. If I committed that I would forfeit a financial interest or payment, unless it was received or accelerated prior to my assumption of the duties of the government position: b. Financial interest or payment at issue:	assumption I revelved to	n of the duties of i it (or it was accele n of the duties of t	rated) <u>after</u> my
Service		. ,			
9. Requirements	puisuant to 5 If you are a Spi	ted my initial ethics briefing, C.F.R. § 2638.305, ecial Government Employee r Foreign Service Officer (FSO),	(Yes	○ N¢	O N/A
for Regular Appointees	Executive Ore	the ethics pledge pursuant to der 13770. B or career FSO or previously	Yes	O No	O N/A
(*)	signed the pled	ge, select N/A.			
10. Additional Ethics Agreement Requirements	All financial into Holdings, Inc., Revocable Mai Family Wealth transferred into consistent with agreement. My	be completed by OGE erests in Perdue Business held through the Perdue Family nagement Trust and the Perdue Preservation Trust, have been the two new irrevocable trusts, the terms of my ethics wife and I are not beneficiaries usts, nor are we trustees.	to be configured in the adjacent box. Yes	ompleted by appoint these requirement	
		00			
. 11.		8			
Comments of Appointee		2			
		18.			
Any intentionally from	alse or mislead	ling statement or response proment, or both, under 18 U.S.C	ovided in this certi	fication is a vio	lation of law
		Appointee's Signature:	,	Date:	
I certify that the information I have provided is complete and accurate. Appointees sign		Sonny Pera	luc		

THIS CERTIFICATION WILL BE POSTED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING ON OGE'S WEBSITE. 3



From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Fwd: National Association of Manufacturers Opposition to KORUS Withdrawal

Date: Saturday, September 2, 2017 3:49:32 PM

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < @ngfa.org > Date: September 2, 2017 at 3:39:05 PM EDT

To: "Heidi Green (Heidi Green@osec.usda.gov)" < Heidi Green@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: National Association of Manufacturers Opposition to KORUS

Withdrawal

As discussed. Thanks!

From: Ken Monahan <(b) (6) @nam.org>
Date: September 2, 2017 at 8:08:27 AM EDT
To: Ken Monahan (b) (6) @nam.org>
Cc: Linda Dempsey (b) (6) @nam.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NAM Alert: Potential U.S. Withdrawal

from KORUS FTA

Dear NAM Members:

We understand through multiple sources that senior administration officials met yesterday and that a notice of intent to withdraw from the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) has been drafted, with the possibility that the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense may deliver a notice to South Korea by early next week.

The NAM is weighing in strongly in opposition to a withdrawal announcement at very high levels, and we urge you to do so as well. In particular, it would be most helpful for NAM members – companies, industry associations, and state and local associations – to weigh in as soon as possible with senior administration officials, Members of Congress, and governors.

Provided below are some talking points that you could use in your outreach:

- The U.S.-Korea economic partnership supports the jobs of hundreds of thousands of manufacturing workers across America. Walking away from this agreement would put those jobs in jeopardy.
- Partnerships like the KORUS FTA are essential as



manufacturers in the United States strive to reach new customers. If the United States withdrew from the KORUS FTA, EU and Asian competitors would enjoy major cost advantages in numerous sectors over manufacturers in the United States.

 While the NAM has long pushed for full implementation of the KORUS FTA and continues to identify areas where improvement is needed in the commercial relationship, such improvements cannot be achieved with withdrawal. To the contrary, it is critical to work to find solutions.

Unlike the NAFTA termination provision, Article 24.5(2)-(3) of the KORUS FTA clearly provides for the automatic termination of the agreement 180 days after the withdrawal notice (unless it is withdrawn) and provides for a formal consultation mechanism, as provided below:

KORUS FTA Article 24.5:

(2) This Agreement shall terminate 180 days after the date either Party notifies the other Party in writing that it wishes to terminate the Agreement.

(3) Within 30 days after a Party provides notice under paragraph 2, either Party may request the other Party in writing to enter into consultations regarding whether any provision of this Agreement should terminate on a date later than that provided under paragraph 2. The consultations shall begin no later than 30 days after the Party delivers its request.

If you haven't done so already, please email Marcie Cox if you would like to join the NAM's recently created U.S.-Korea Task Force.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to reach out to <u>Linda and</u> me with any questions over the weekend and into early next week.

Ken Monahan

National Association of Manufacturers

Director, International Trade Policy

<image001.png>



From: Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: <u>Ibach, Greq - OSEC, Washington, DC; Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

Subject: Re: NGFA and NAEGA recommend improvements to USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

Date: Friday, May 4, 2018 7:49:15 PM

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2018, at 7:23 PM, Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Dudley.Hoskins@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Mr. Secretary,

Thank you for sharing the below notice.

Here is a brief status update on where we are in this process:



Please advise if you would like any additional information at this time. - dudley

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Sent: Friday, May 4, 2018 5:56 PM

To: Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC < Greg.Ibach@osec.usda.gov; Hoskins, Dudley

OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Dudley.Hoskins@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: NGFA and NAEGA recommend improvements to USDA's Grain Inspection

Advisory Committee

https://www.ngfa.org/newsletter/ngfa-naega-recommend-improvements-usdas-grain-inspection-advisory-committee/



NGFA and NAEGA recommend improvements to USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

05.02.18 Newsletter, Safety, Health & Environment

The NGFA and North American Export Grain Association made several recommendations to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on ways to strengthen its Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

Member companies of the NGFA and NAEGA make up the vast majority of businesses that pay for and are direct customers of the Official grain inspection and weighing system. In their comments, NGFA and NAEGA said the advisory committee continues to have value "in providing expert advice and assistance" to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to ensure that Official inspections are performed "in a reliable, consistent and uninterrupted manner to facilitate the export of U.S. grains and oilseeds to global customers."

The advisory committee meets twice annually to advise AMS on the programs and services it delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The committee is comprised of 15 members appointed by the secretary of agriculture who represent all segments of the grain industry, including grain producers, processors, merchandisers, handlers, exporters, consumers, grain inspection agencies and scientists.

In their joint statement to AMS, the NGFA and NAEGA provided several recommendations to "strengthen the independence, diversity and breadth of participation within the committee," including:

- Increasing the number of grain handling experts on the committee. "Over the past several years, many of the committee members who were selected did not have direct experience working with FGIS and were not familiar with many of the issues that were either raised by the agency or the grain handling industry, resulting in what at times were unproductive and uninformed discussions," the comments noted.
- Stagger the appointments of the new members. Establishing a rotational



term of service "will ensure that no more than one third of the committee members will complete their term with a given year," the comments said. "Specifically, the NGFA and NAEGA recommend that the 10 new members on the advisory committee be appointed for staggered two-year or three-year terms, with half of the new members in each category."

- Resume the appointment of alternate members to the committee. "To maintain continuity, 15 alternates to the committee also should be appointed to three- or two-year terms," NGFA and NAEGA noted.
- Enhance geographic and industry diversity. "Given the diversity of the U.S. grain, feed, processing, milling and export industry, membership should be balanced based upon states/regions; commodities handled; types of facility operations; types of shipments (e.g., bulk vessels, rail, truck, containers, etc.); and Official inspection arrangement (e.g., locations where there is an AMS Federal-State partnership, etc.)," the comments stated.
- Promote fresh perspectives by appointing new candidates. "Membership should be rotated regularly serving for no more than two terms within an eight-year period," recommended NGFA and NAEGA.
- "With these revisions to the committee's structure and operations, AMS would be taking yet another positive step to provide its customers with better, more efficient and more cost-effective Official inspection and weighing services," the joint statement concluded.

Sent from my iPad

<NGFA-NAEGA-Recommendations-for-Grain-Inspection-Advisory-Committee-4-30-18-FINAL.pdf>



Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC From:

To:

(b) (6] - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email
Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC Cc:

Subject: Fwd: NGFA Remarks

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 6:23:28 PM

Attachments: NGFA 3.19.18.DOCX

ATT00001.htm

Sir - Attached please find talking points for the National Grain & Feed Association.



NGFA - Secretary Sonny Perdue Breakfast Opening NGFA Annual Convention March 19, 2018 – 9:20 AM, Phoenix, AZ

b) (5) - Deliberative

Theme: Speak to NGFA about current events and issues facing the industry.



(b) (5) - Deliberative



From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To:

Sonny Perdue's alias email
Fwd: NGFA, NAEGA commend Secretary of Agriculture Perdue for relocating FGIS to AMS Subject:

Thursday, September 7, 2017 2:49:58 PM Date:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>> **Date:** September 7, 2017 at 2:34:41 PM EDT

To: "Heidi Green (Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov)" < Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov >, "Brian Klippenstein (brian.klippenstein@osec.usda.gov)"
 brian.klippenstein@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Gary Martin < (b) (6) <u>@naega.org</u>>

Subject: NGFA, NAEGA commend Secretary of Agriculture Perdue for relocating

FGIS to AMS

Heidi and Brian,

Pasted below is the media statement issued jointly moments ago by National Grain and Feed Association and North American Export Grain Association on today's announcement.

Thanks again for your actions on FGIS! We look forward to working with you both closely at the appropriate time to ensure a successful transition and outcome.

Best wishes,

Randy Gordon and Gary Martin

From: National Grain and Feed Association [mailto:ngfa@ngfa.ccsend.com] On Behalf Of

National Grain and Feed Association

Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2017 2:28 PM **To:** Sarah Gonzalez <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: NGFA, NAEGA commend Secretary of Agriculture Perdue for relocating FGIS to AMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE







Contact NGFA: 202-289-0873 (b) (6) @ngfa.org

NGFA, NAEGA commend Secretary of Agriculture Perdue for relocating FGIS to AMS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, 2017 - The nation's two preeminent grain trade associations whose member companies directly utilize and fund services provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) today commended Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue for relocating the agency to the department's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

Perdue announced the action earlier this afternoon as part of a second tranche of USDA reorganization designed to strengthen and enhance the department's customerservice focus and maximize efficiency. In doing so, Perdue separated FGIS from the Packers and Stockyards Administration within the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) - two agencies with significantly different missions, functions and roles.

"We strongly support this much-needed realignment of FGIS within AMS, which we believe will help the agency better fulfill its statutory obligation to provide reliable, accurate, timely, impartial and cost-effective services," said NGFA President Randy Gordon and NAEGA President and Chief Executive Officer Gary Martin. "Relocating FGIS within an agency that has a similar mission and function as a service agency is the foundation for its successful future, and we commend Secretary Perdue for recognizing this need and moving expeditiously to bring about this change."

Among other things, FGIS maintains the U.S. grain standards for various commodities that underpin the U.S. price-discovery system and facilitate the marketing of U.S. grains, oilseeds and related agricultural products. FGIS is responsible for establishing quality standards for grains, oilseeds, pulses and legumes, and for providing impartial, user-fee funded official inspection and weighing services through a network of federal, state and private entities. As such, most of its functions are akin to those already provided by AMS, which operates existing programs that support and facilitate the marketing of dairy, specialty crops, livestock, poultry and seed, as well as cotton and tobacco. Prior to a 1994 Clinton administration-era USDA reorganization that created GIPSA, FGIS was a separate agency that reported directly to the USDA undersecretary for marketing and inspection programs, to which AMS also reports.

NGFA and NAEGA also said the realignment provides the impetus for FGIS to improve its cross-agency interaction with other government departments that share roles in facilitating the marketing of U.S. agricultural products, such as USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates for U.S. grain export shipments.

"In concert with the appointment of capable, knowledgeable, responsible and accountable leadership at FGIS, this organizational realignment holds promise for greatly improving the agency's program delivery and reputation," Gordon and Martin said. "It also should promote and support domestic and export markets, thereby enhancing USDA's agricultural trade mission. Further, the relocation to AMS should help address problems over the last decade involving the overall expense and effectiveness of federally mandated FGIS official grain inspection services by



eliminating programmatic redundancies, reducing administrative costs, and providing opportunities for interaction with AMS personnel with a similar mission and focus.

"NGFA and NAEGA look forward to working constructively with FGIS and its leadership under this realignment to achieve our shared goal and mutual objective of making it the gold standard worldwide," Gordon and Martin said.

-30-

The NGFA, established in 1896, consists of more than 1,050 grain, feed, processing, exporting and other grain-related companies that operate more than 7,000 facilities and handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds. Its membership includes grain elevators; feed and feed ingredient manufacturers; biofuels companies; grain and oilseed processors and millers; exporters; livestock and poultry integrators; and associated firms that provide goods and services to the nation's grain, feed and processing industry. The NGFA also consists of 29 affiliated State and Regional Grain and Feed Associations, and has strategic alliances with Pet Food Institute and North American Export Grain Association.

NAEGA, established in 1912, consists of private and publicly owned companies and farmer-owned cooperatives that are involved in and provide services to the bulk grain and oilseed exporting industry. NAEGA-member companies ship and support the vast majority of the highly competitive and fungible U.S. grain export supply. NAEGA is dedicated to providing for efficient, predictable, reliable and expanded trade via responsible commercial and official practices. Through a reliance on member action and support, NAEGA acts to accomplish its mission from its office in Washington D.C., and in markets throughout the world.

NGFA, 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260, Arlington, VA 22206

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Sent by ngfa@ngfa.org in collaboration with







From: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

To: (b) @ngfa.org

Subject: RE: NGFA-NAEGA Joint Statement on U.S.-Mexico Preliminary Trade Agreement

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:27:49 PM

Attachments: <u>image006.png</u>

Can you give me an agenda for tomorrow and an anticipated attendance list?

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:10 PM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov> **Subject:** NGFA-NAEGA Joint Statement on U.S.-Mexico Preliminary Trade Agreement

Ray,

We look forward to seeing you Thursday morning at the Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade meeting at AFBF.

I was on business travel Monday and Tuesday, but wanted to send you the joint statement (attached and pasted below) that NGFA and the North American Export Grain Association issued yesterday morning on the U.S.-Mexico preliminary trade agreement.

Thanks again for taking the time to join us tomorrow!

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u> | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE





National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) release joint statement on announcement of preliminary trade agreement between United States and Mexico

ARLINGTON, Aug. 28, 2018 -- The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) released the following joint statement after the announcement of a preliminary trade agreement between the United States and Mexico:

"The announcement of a preliminary trade agreement between the United States and Mexico represents a significant, positive step in modernizing and further enhancing North American food and agricultural commerce that benefits the economic growth and consumers in the hemisphere. We hope this agreement contributes to broader discussions on ways to further integrate food and agricultural markets between the United States, Mexico, and Canada to provide for increased investment, food security and consumer preference.

We are particularly pleased by what we understand to be a number of efforts to preserve and enhance current trade terms in North America. These include: the retention of zero tariffs on agricultural products traded between the United States and Mexico; the addition of 21^{st} century language to enhance information exchange and cooperation on agricultural biotechnology trade-related matters; an agreement to strengthen disciplines for science-based sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures to facilitate trade; and an agreement that grading standards and services on agricultural products, including grains and oilseeds, will operate independently from domestic registration systems for grain and oilseed varieties. We are hopeful that these benefits will be realized in a final agreement that includes Canada.

Addressing non-tariff trade barriers, as the preliminary agreement reportedly does, is particularly important to facilitating the grain and oilseed trade. We will be reviewing closely the reported inclusion in the preliminary agreement of SPS provisions that would: 1) increase transparency in the development and implementation of SPS measures; 2) advance science-based decision making; 3) improve processes for certification, regionalization and equivalency determinations; 4) conduct systems-based audits; 5) improve transparency for import checks; and 6) enhance the compatibility of SPS measures between the two countries. The new agreement reportedly also would establish a new mechanism for technical consultations to resolve SPS issues between the two countries, which also would be a welcome development.

Despite these clear improvements, we are disappointed by reports that the preliminary agreement removes or weakens key dispute-resolution procedures that currently benefit investors under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). These include provisions embodied in Chapters 19 and 20 of the NAFTA. These protections have been utilized successfully by U.S. agriculture to protect long-term investments in Mexico and defend against unjustified legal actions. These protections provide confidence to investors throughout the supply chain and protect industry efforts to create jobs and develop markets throughout North America.

The announcement of a preliminary agreement is an important step toward eliminating tariff



and non-tariff barriers in North America. In the coming days we urge U.S. and Mexican negotiators to work with Canada and build on the progress already made by this preliminary agreement. We hope these efforts will tackle existing trade-distortive food and agricultural policies so that an integrated North American marketplace can flourish under a modernized and more open trading system that is a template for future trade agreements.

NGFA and NAEGA look forward to providing further analysis and input once the full details of the preliminary agreement are released."

-30-

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From: Randy Gordon
To: Ray Starling

Subject: NGFA-NAEGA Joint Statement on U.S.-Mexico Preliminary Trade Agreement

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 2:10:53 PM

Attachments: image002.png

NGFA and NAEGA release joint statement on preliminary trade agreement between United States and

Mexico.docx

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National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North



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From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Non Responsiveness to "Hurting SE Producers"

Friday, October 12, 2018 7:37:52 PM Date:

FYSA

From: Edgar Woods < (b) (6) @palmettograin.com>

Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 2:37 PM

To: (b) (6) @proag.com

Cc: Amy Furnivall (b) (6) @cropins.net>; Katie Woods (b) (6) @ssecrop.com>; Cameron @cropins.net>; Michael Harstine <(b) (6) @cropins.net>; Starling,

Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>; Sell, Terri (EXT) - RMA

@proag.com>; Mary Francis Lowrey < 6 (6) @silveussoutheast.com>

Subject: Re: Non Responsiveness to "Hurting SE Producers"

Kaleigh,

Thank you for getting back to me. Maybe I misunderstood. Has someone at ProAg already spoken with Landrum? My only concern is that Landrum stated he has not yet been called.

On Fri, Oct 12, 2018 at 2:05 PM Waelde, Kaleigh (b) (6) @proag.com > wrote:

Edger,

I know ProAg upper management has been diligently working on this issue. I have forwarded this correspondence to the correct personnel.

Thank you,

KALEIGH WHITAKER

Account Representative KY & TN, ProAg 2530 Sir Barton Way, Suite 125

Lexington, KY 40509

Office: (800) 366-2767 ext Local: (859) 543-0099 ext

Cell: (b) (6) www.ProAq.com

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From: Edgar Woods < appalmettograin.com >

Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 12:58 PM

To: Waelde, Kaleigh < (b) (6) @proag.com>

Cc: Amy (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Katie Woods < (b) (6) <u>s@ssecrop.com</u>>; Cameron Silveus <(b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Michael Harstine (b) (6 @cropins.net>;



Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <raymond.starling@osec.usda.gov>; Sell, Terri

(b) @proag.com>; Mary Francis Lowrey <(b) (6) @silveussoutheast.com>

Subject: Non Responsiveness to "Hurting SE Producers"

Kaleigh,

I hope you are well. It is my understanding that on 9/27 you and/or your boss were asked to call Landrum Weathers with Circle W Farms regarding his Whole Farm Policy. Furthermore, I understand that this call has yet to be made after multiple follow ups on our end including calls and email. — We have these documented. In the meantime, it has also come to our attention that Cirlce W Farms plans to move his 2019 wheat policy to Diversified and will partner with a competing agency. I can't help but think that ProAgs lack of follow up might have been the straw that broke the camels back. This is not how I do business.

I have attached executives from Silveus Insurance Group as well as Ray Starling in hopes of spurring some sort of action from you an your team. I've had a relationship with this grower for a very long time and I expect that he be called immediately.

--

Edgar Woods

Palmetto Grain Brokerage 516 Browns Cove Road Unit J Ridgeland, SC 29936

800-845-9563 (o)



866-514-3968 (f)



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copies of the original message and any attachments.

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Edgar Woods

Palmetto Grain Brokerage 516 Browns Cove Road Unit J Ridgeland, SC 29936

800-845-9563 (o)



866-514-3968 (f)



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 From:
 Sonny Perdue

 To:
 Steve Censky

Cc: Heidi Green; (b) (6) Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Fwd: FW: Opportunities at USDA
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:28:04 AM

Attachments: image001.pnq

(b) (6) "s Resume - US.pdf

Steve,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Rawlings < trawlings@oca.ga.gov>

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 12:59 PM Subject: FW: Opportunities at USDA

To: "(b) (6) @agrowstar.com" <(b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Danny, thank you so much for forwarding (b) (6) email and CV to Sonny. is one of the finest people I know, a solid (b) (6) who led the investigation into serious wrongdoing at his own company, (b) (6) . He would be very appropriate for a senior management position at USDA. If I can give y'all any more information on him, please let me know.

Thanks!

Tom C. Rawlings

Director

Georgia Office of the Child Advocate



www.oca.georgia.gov

7 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Suite 347

Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-4200 (work)

(b) (6) (cell)

404-656-5200 (fax)



Dear Tom,

It was good to see you this weekend. The number of men that flew in and the depth of our conversations were a real testimony to the strength of the friendships that we formed 30 years ago.

I really appreciate your offer to talk to Secret	tary Perdue about me and the possibility of
working at USDA. As you know, I spent the	e last 5 years as CFO, and then CEO, of
**************************************	. What drew me to (b) (6)
was the chance to work with and for America work and the risks they take. I found the work	an farmers. I have deep respect for how hard they k there incredibly rewarding. (b) (6)
(D) (O) was not without adversity. (D) (O)	While rewarding, my time at
. When we significant opposition.	e reported this to the DOJ, we were met with

As I think about what I would like to do next, the idea of working for the current administration is very appealing. I thrive on doing meaningful work and solving complex problems. While I have not spoken to them yet about working in Washington, (b) (6)

, all know me and my work. They may be useful reference sources for Secretary Perdue. All of my family lives in DC now so I am up there frequently. I would welcome the opportunity to talk to Secretary Perdue and would really



appreciate being considered for a role at USDA. My resume is attached.

Thanks for thinking about this Tom. I look forward to staying in touch.

Best regards,









The document attached to the preceding email, consisting of a resume that totals 2 pages, is being withheld in full under FOIA Exemption 6.



Stephen Censky's alias email - OSEC, Washington, DC From:

To: Sonny Perdue

Sonny Perdue's alias email - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC Cc: Heidi Green; (b) (6)

Re: Opportunities at USDA Subject:

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 1:33:43 PM

Attachments: image001.png

His resume was actually just forwarded to me two days ago via Carly from Stephen Vaden. He received (6) resume and a recommendation from the deputy counsel at treasury.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 3, 2018, at 9:28 AM, Sonny Perdue (b) (6) wrote:

Steve,

(b) (5) - Deliberative

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 1:02 PM

Subject: Fwd: FW: Opportunities at USDA

To: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Mr. Secretary, from Tom Rawlings. (b) (5) - Deliberative

DJB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tom Rawlings < trawlings@oca.ga.gov>

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 12:59 PM Subject: FW: Opportunities at USDA

To: "(b) (6) @agrowstar.com" < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Danny, thank you so much for forwarding (b) (6) CV to Sonny. is one of the finest people I know, a solid Christian who led the investigation into serious wrongdoing at his own company, . He would be very appropriate for a senior management position at USDA. If I can give y'all any more information on him, please let me know.



Tha	011	Izal
111	an	V2:

Tom C. Rawlings

Director

Georgia Office of the Child Advocate

www.oca.georgia.gov

7 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Suite 347

Atlanta, GA 30334

404-656-4200 (work)

(b) (6) (cell)

404-656-5200 (fax)

<image001.png>

Dear Tom,

It was good to see you this weekend. The number of men that flew in and the depth of our conversations were a real testimony to the strength of the friendships that we formed 30 years ago.

I really appreciate your offer to talk to Secretary Perdue about me and the possibility of working at USDA. As you know, I spent the last 5 years as CFO, and then CEO, of (b) (6)

What drew me to (b) (6) was the chance to work with and for American farmers. I have deep respect for how hard they work and the risks they take. I found the work there incredibly rewarding.

While rewarding, my time at (b) (c) was not without adversity. (b) (c)

When we reported this to the DOJ, we were met with significant opposition.



As I think about what I would like to do next, the idea of working for the current administration is very appealing. I thrive on doing meaningful work and solving complex problems. While I have not spoken to them yet about working in Washington, (b) (6)

all know me and my work. They may be useful reference sources for Secretary Perdue. All of my family lives in DC now so I am up there frequently. I would welcome the opportunity to talk to Secretary Perdue and would really appreciate being considered for a role at USDA. My resume is attached.

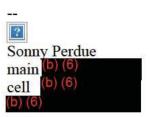
Thanks for thinking about this Tom. I look forward to staying in touch.

Best regards,

(b) (6)

Stuart Thompson

Cell (b) (6)







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From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Our bosses are scheduling themselves **Date:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 9:57:13 AM

FYI

From: Forsyth, Gabriele (Perdue) < Gabriele_Forsyth@perdue.senate.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 9:56 AM

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Our bosses are scheduling themselves

Just got a text from Sen. Perdue that he Sec Perdue are scheduling g a meeting around 4:30pm today. Do you have any idea what this is about?



GABRIELE FORSYTH

Scheduler

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR DAVID PERDUE

455 Russell Senate Office Building | Washington, DC 20510

Direct phone: 202.224.6629



From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

To: Subject: Sonny Perdue's alias email Fwd: Our Midnight Train From Georgia Priday, September 15, 2017 9:19:27 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Blanton, Bruce - AMS" < Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov >

Date: September 15, 2017 at 8:55:47 AM EDT

To: "Coale, Dana - AMS" < <u>Dana.Coale@ams.usda.gov</u>>

Cc: "Neal, Arthur - AMS" < <u>Arthur.Neal@ams.usda.gov</u>>, "Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Jannine.Miller@osec.usda.gov</u>>, "Caffarelli, Peter -

AMS" < "PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov">"Ulibarri, Ronald - AMS" < "Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ulibarri, Ronald - AMS" < "Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ulibarri, Ronald - AMS" < "Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.usda.gov">"Ronald.us

< RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Our Midnight Train From Georgia

FYI – Please see below. The CSX grain train to Okeechobee should arrive by noon and to the customer by 6 pm. All seems to be working as planned/discussed by industry yesterday. This is good. Bruce

From: Clay Detlefsen [mailto:(b) (6) @nmpf.org]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:47 AM

To: Marvin, Lucille < Lucille. Marvin@stb.gov>; (b) (6) @ngfa.org; Meyer, Gabriel

<<u>Gabriel.Meyer@stb.gov</u>>; Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC

<<u>J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov</u>>; Zachary Conlin <<u>z(b) (6)</u> @freshfromflorida.com>;

Andrew Walmsley < 6 @fb.org>; Caffarelli, Peter - AMS

<PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov>; Blanton, Bruce - AMS

<Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov>; Gastelle, Jesse - AMS

<<u>lesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Florida Scott Eubanks < 6 6 @ffbf.org>;

sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov; Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS

< Matthew. Bragg@aphis.usda.gov>; Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS

<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Our Midnight Train From Georgia

Update:

Good morning,

X80915 last reports approximately 70 miles outside of Okeechobee and is



projected to arrive around noon today. The current plan is to deliver the cars to the customer around 1800 this evening. I'll continue monitoring and provide an update once the placement is confirmed.

```
From: Clay Detlefsen
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:35 AM
To: 'Marvin, Lucille' (b) (6)
                                   @stb.gov>; 'Randy Gordon' <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>;
                                @stb.gov>; 'Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC'
'Meyer, Gabriel' < (b) (6)
<<u>J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov</u>>; Zachary Conlin <<u>z(b) (6) @freshfromflorida.com</u>>;
'Andrew Walmsley' (b) (6) @fb.org>; 'Caffarelli, Peter - AMS'
<PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov>; 'Blanton, Bruce - AMS'
<Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov>; 'Gastelle, Jesse - AMS'
<Jesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov>; 'Florida Scott Eubanks' <(b) (6)</pre>
                                                                        @ffbf.org>:
'sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov' <sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov>; 'Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS'
<<u>Matthew.Bragg@aphis.usda.gov</u>>; 'Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS'
<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Our Midnight Train From Georgia
 All-
 Randy just informed me that the train left last night at 20:26 and appears to be
 on schedule.
 Clay
From: Clay Detlefsen
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 6:59 PM
To: 'Marvin, Lucille' (b) (6) <u>@stb.gov</u>>; Randy Gordon < (b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>;
                               @stb.gov>; 'Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC'
Meyer, Gabriel < (b) (6)
<<u>J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov</u>>; Zachary Conlin (b) (6)
                                                            @freshfromflorida.com>;
'Andrew Walmsley' (b) (6) @fb.org>; 'Caffarelli, Peter - AMS'
< <a href="mailto:PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov">PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov</a>>; Blanton, Bruce - AMS
<<u>Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Gastelle, Jesse - AMS
                                                                       @ffbf.org>;
<<u>lesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Florida Scott Eubanks <(b) (6)
sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov; Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS
<<u>Matthew.Bragg@aphis.usda.gov</u>>; Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS
<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: Our Midnight Train From Georgia
```



All-

Here are the details of the Great Grain Train. We have everyone on this email from the call except for David Meyer (spelling?).

I can be the conduit to all, but don't hesitate to contact each other directly as needed.

Thank you all so much for your help on this issue. I am amazed, delighted and indebted to you all.

Regards
Clay
=======================================
The CSX train from Waycross, GA to United Feed consists of the following:
8 cars of corn 3 cars of soy hills 1 car of soymeal 1 car of canola meal 3 cars of DDGS
In addition, the CSX train will be picking up 7 more cars in Ballwin, FL (east of Jacksonville) that includes 3 cars of corn and 2 cars of soymeal intended for other feed mill customers in Okeechobee County.
The train is scheduled to arrive at United Feeds Friday night and be spotted and ready for unloading Saturday morning. CSX has communicated all this to United Feeds.
CSX is to keep me posted on any updates, and I' II forward on to you.
Clay, could I impose on you to send this to the bigger group? Working off my phone until later tonight and didn't want to encumber this email with all the previous text.
Thanks!
Randy
Regards



Clay

Clay Detlefsen, Esq.
Senior Vice President, Environmental and
Regulatory Affairs & Staff Counsel

2107 Wilson Blvd., #600
Arlington, VA 22201
(b) (6) Direct
(b) (6) Cell
(b) (6) @nmpf.org

www.nmpf.org

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<image003.png>

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC
Cc: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: Perdue Answers

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 7:28:51 PM

(b) (6)

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC <tim.murtaugh@oc.usda.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 7:24 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Fwd: Perdue Answers

Sir -

The Forbes reporter had some follow-up questions. (b) (5) - Deliberative

(b) (5) - Deliberative

?

Q&A:

 Did he also transfer his control and ownership of Perdue Inc, Houston Fertilizer and Grain Co, ProAg Products and StarPort Logisitics to his children?

(b) (δ) - Deliberative

2. Did his children sell any of those assets as well?

(b) (5) - Deliberative

3. Do the Perdue family members have any stake in those businesses today?



Thanks!

Chase

From: Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington, DC [mailto:Tim.Murtaugh@oc.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 12:32 PM

To: Peterson-Withorn, Chase



Subject: Perdue Answers

Here are your answers.

1. Secretary Perdue transferred a substantial portion of his fortune to his adult children around the time he took office—is that correct?

He had previously established a trust benefitting his adult children, in which he had maintained control and a 1-percent interest. This was all before being considered or nominated as secretary. Upon becoming secretary, he immediately recused himself from any issues involving any of his businesses. He and his spouse also immediately began the process of divesting of control of the trust and the 1-percent interest. This was completed on July 1, 2017, which was within 90 days, as required by ethics rules and his ethics agreement.

2. When did the transfer occur?

Beginning April 24, 2017, the date of his swearing in as secretary, he immediately recused himself from any issues involving any of his businesses. He instructed his private legal counsel to restructure the family trust for him and his spouse to relinquish control and the 1-percent ownership. That was completed on July 1, 2017, well within the 90 days required.

3. Secretary Perdue's financial disclosure form indicates he transferred assets worth at least \$8 million—is that correct? Can you give me a better sense of exactly how much these assets were worth?

He reported a range of value as required by the Office of Government Ethics' Integrity.gov system.

4. One asset he transferred is a stake in AGrowStar LLC, a grain merchandising company, worth between \$5 million and \$25 million—is that correct?

Yes, that is the range reported as required.

- 5. Is it fair to say his actions as head of the USDA could impact the value of AGrowStar?

 Since it has been in the complete control of the Perdue adult children, the trust has fully divested itself of AGrowStar. No Perdue family member has any interest in the company any longer.
- 6. Is it possible for Secretary Perdue to be given stock in AGrowStar once he leaves office, if his children decide to gift or sell the stock to him?

No Perdue family member has any interest in the company any longer.





United States Department of Agriculture Office: 202-690-0060

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From: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: RE: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017 1:41:33 PM

Sir, I let them know and they were very understanding and grateful you had still considered. I let them know we would try again soon.

Thank you.

Lauren

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 8:14 PM

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC <Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov> **Cc:** Hudson, Bethany - OSEC, Washington DC <Bethany.Hudson@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

On Wed, Aug 2, 2017 at 6:49 PM Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Yes, Sir. I will reach out to them now.

Hope you have a nice evening and a great bus tour! We will miss you here!!!

From: Sonny Perdue [mailto:(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 6:12 PM

Thanks. You and Bethany are leading the next tour and we'll see if Chris and Rob can handle your jobs here!

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

Yes, but tell them when I accepted, I had no idea I would be here. Please copy Corinna Robinson and Jeb Stewart on your response.

On Aug 2, 2017, at 5:58 PM, Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < Lauren. Sullivan@osec.usda.gov > wrote:

Sir,

I spoke to Chris and Zhulieta about this, who have been the lead on planning the trip to South Korea/Japan, and with the timing necessary to get to South Korea for a



formal program to start on Monday, you would need to depart first thing on Saturday the 16th.

I am happy to reach out and explain this to the event organizers, but wanted to run it by you first. Are you alright that I reach out to decline?

Lauren

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 1:16 PM

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < Lauren. Sullivan@osec.usda.gov >

Subject: Fwd: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shelly Echols < (b) (6) @danielscharters.com>

Date: Wed, Aug 2, 2017 at 11:05 AM

Subject: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

To: (b) (6)

Cc: (a) @jaemorfarms.com

Secretary Perdue,

I hope you are doing well. I want to express my gratitude for all that you have done so far in your new role as Secretary of Agriculture. There are a lot of senseless policies in place from the previous administration and I appreciate what you are doing to correct some of those, especially school nutrition and migrant workers.

I also wanted to touch base with you again about speaking at our Leadership Georgia Agriculture program in Perry on Saturday, September 16. Jeb Stewart was thrilled when we told him that you had committed. He is a trustee this year, and couldn't say enough about your speech during his program and how you opened so many eyes! We want that same experience for this year's class. I know you are a dynamic and engaging speaker and cannot wait for the class to learn from you.

We will begin the morning at the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter in the Heritage Hall at 8:00 by having breakfast and a discussion panel at what we are calling, "Eggs and Ag Issues". The panel will be answering questions of the group. We will specifically address migrant workers, legislative issues, feeding the world, and other topics of interest of the class. The panelists are Robert Dickey, State Legislator and Peach Farmer; Jeffrey Harvey, Farm Bureau Legislative Director; and Dan Brimmer, owner of Ag Works and specialist in migrant workers. The group will have a break at the conclusion of the breakfast panel discussion to visit nearby events at the fairgrounds. At 10:15, we will have Corinna Robinson introduce you to the group. At that



time, we have allowed 45 minutes for you to speak and answer questions if you wish (until 11:05). Is that enough time?

I have attached a speaker form. If you would have someone fill it out and send back to me, I will make sure to have everything available that you need.

Again, we are excited about your time with us and appreciate your willingness to help us teach the class about our state's largest industry!

Best, Shelly Echols

Sent: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 8:36 AM

To: (b) (6) <u>@danielscharters.com</u>

Subject: Fwd: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Date: January 4, 2017 at 7:55:27 AM EST

To: (b) @jaemorfarms.com

Cc: Corinna Robinson < (b) (6) >, Jessica

Subject: Re: Perry Agriculture program - Leadership Georgia

Good Morning Drew,

I am glad that you and your wife have met some of my favorite people, Corinna and Brian.

As you may know, Corinna called yesterday and we had a long conversation about Leadership Georgia. I'm sure she may have told you some of my history with LG.

LG has a long history of doing good, but I felt it had lost its way about 10 years ago. I suggested they rename it Leadership Buckhead. Corinna assures me the culture has turned around, and I trust her judgement. I think your selection and participation may be evidence of that.

I have placed September 16, on my calendar and would be happy to participate at your invitation. The only other invitation I have accepted was from Jeb Stewart, whom I admire, and that was because they held it at the Ag Expo in Moultrie with the purpose of giving the group some cultural diversity into the largest sector of



Georgia's economy, agriculture. Many eyes were opened!

I'm not sure whether I will be here or in DC soon, but we will be happy to help with your efforts in Middle Georgia. I am copying my daughter-in-law, Jessica, who works for me. She and her husband, Dan, are the ones who have the blackberry farm. Jessica could be very helpful in local suggestions and contacts in filling out your program. Naturally, if you're coming to our area, we want your group to see the best.

I would be happy to talk by phone as well. My contacts are in my signature line.

Best regards,

Sonny

Governor Perdue.

First off, let me take a second to introduce myself. I am Drew Echols, a fifth generation farmer at Jaemor Farms in Alto, Georgia. I am writing on behalf of Leadership Georgia. My wife, Shelly, and I are program chairs for the 2017 class. Our program will be in Perry this September and cover all things agriculture in our great state.

While participating in the class of 2015, Shelly and I were fortunate enough to meet Corinna and Brian Robinson. They have become some of our best friends.

In planning a program like this, there are many moving parts and details that may not be secured until a few weeks before showtime. Out of the gate I feel it very important to line up speakers. As I thought about leadership in middle Georgia, you were the first person that came to mind. We knew it would be a long shot to secure something this far out, but knew we had to try. I reached out to Corinna to help get the ball rolling. If your schedule allows, we would be honored to have you as our keynote speaker on Saturday morning, the 16th of September.

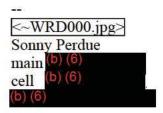
Shelly and I are excited to have the opportunity to introduce Georgia's number one industry to so many leaders across our state who may have never stepped foot on a farm.

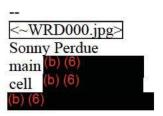
I am available either by telephone or email at your convenience to discuss further. My cell phone number is (b) (6).

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Sincerely, Drew Echols Jaemor Farms





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Sonny Perdue main (b) (6) cell (b) (6) (b) (6)



From: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC
Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Personnel Time tomorrow

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 10:42:10 AM

Thanks, Campbell. I will work up an agenda.

We can do noms at the beginning so Ken does not have to sit through the rest of personnel.

From: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 10:38 AM

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC <Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; Miller, Carly -

OSEC, Washington, DC < Carly. Miller@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC < Ken. Barbic@osec.usda.gov>; Starling, Raymond - OSEC,

Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Personnel Time tomorrow

Brooke and Carly,

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Thank you! Campbell

Draft Agenda for Personnel time tomorrow:

1. **(b) (5) - Deliberative, (b) (6)**2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.



From: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

To: Stephen Censky's alias email

Stephen Censky's alias email

Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC

Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 2:29:46 PM

was also on the list of possible candidates from the DPC.

Thanks,

Brooke

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Stephen Censky's alias email

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:01 PM

To: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC < Carly. Miller@osec.usda.gov >; Appleton, Brooke - OSEC,

Washington DC < Brooke. Appleton@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-720-6052

From: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC **Sent:** Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:24 PM

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC < Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC Brooke.Appleton@osec.usda.gov; (b) (6)

OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>@osec.usda.gov</u>> Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

Predecisional/Personnel-

Trey contacted Ray to voice support for this candidate. I think (b) (5) - Deliberative

From: Trey Childress (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:19 PM

To: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC < Carly.Miller@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: USDA Candidate- (b) (6)

Carly:



Thank you for your note. For clarity, (b) (6)

mentioned that he had been contacted about the role at FNCS by someone in the White House. I am unsure how serious that interest may be, but I offered to the Secretary my point of view on (b) (all positive) should his candidacy be advanced further. I currently serve as the Deputy Governor in Illinois (6)

As I told the Secretary, if you're considering — he's right on the policy (focused on selfsufficiency) and operationally skilled as well.

Attached is his resume.

Best,

Trey

On Oct 16, 2018, at 9:53 AM, Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC <carly.miller@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

Hi Trey,

Ray let me know that you recommended a potential candidate for FNCS. Do you happen to have a copy of his resume or contact info so I could reach out?

Thanks in advance,

Carly

Carly Miller

White House Liaison

<image001.jpg> United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: ((b) (6)

This

electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



From: <u>OSEC, Washington, DC</u> Stephen Censky's alias email

To: Beach, Allie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 1:02:06 PM

Attachments: attachment 1.doc

Allie,

Can you set up time for a telephone interview for me with to discuss his potential interest in FNCS UnderSec?

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-720-6052

From: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:24 PM

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC < Brooke. Appleton@osec.usda.gov>; (b) (6)

OSEC, Washington, DC < @osec.usda.gov> Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

Predecisional/Personnel-

Trey contacted Ray to voice support for this candidate. I think (b) (5) - Deliberative

From: Trey Childress (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:19 PM

To: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC < Carly.Miller@osec.usda.gov

Subject: Re: USDA Candidate- (b) (6)

Carly:

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As I told the Secretary, if you're considering —he's right on the policy (focused on self-sufficiency) and operationally skilled as well.



A				
Attached	1C	hic	raciima	١.

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Carly

Carly Miller

White House Liaison

<image001.jpg> United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: (b) (6)

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The document attached to the preceding email, consisting of a resume that totals 2 pages, is being withheld in full under FOIA Exemption 6.



From: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC Stephen Censky's alias email

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Predecisional/Personnel-Additional Candidate for FNCS

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:23:43 PM

Attachments: attachment 1.doc

Predecisional/Personnel-

Trey contacted Ray to voice support for this candidate. I think (b) (5) - Deliberative

From: Trey Childress (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 12:19 PM

To: Miller, Carly - OSEC, Washington, DC <Carly.Miller@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: USDA Candidate-(b) (6)

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Trey

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Thanks in advance,

Carly

Carly Miller



<image001.jpg>

White House Liaison United States Department of Agriculture

Cell: (b) (6)

This

electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



The document attached to the preceding email, consisting of a resume that totals 2 pages, is being withheld in full under FOIA Exemption 6.



From: Stephen Censky's alias email

To: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC

Subject: FW: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean

Exports to China

Date: Monday, January 8, 2018 2:53:48 PM

Attachments: image003.png

Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports to

China.docx

I can't print from my computer. Please print the attachment

Best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-720-6052

From: Randy Gordon [mailto (b) (6) @ngfa.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 6:10 PM

- OSEC, Washington, DC < @osec.usda.gov>

Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for

U.S. Soybean Exports to China

Dear Steve,

Thanks again for your return call this morning (b) (6)

As promised, I'm attaching some preliminary thoughts and recommendations for your consideration to address several immediate needs/concerns related to successful implementation of the Systems approach for U.S. soybean exports to China. I apologize for the delay, but I did want to have some additional discussions today before forwarding this.

As I noted this morning, I think it might be good upon your return to convene an interagency group with the industry (e.g., USSEC) to discuss next steps after you and Undersecretary lbach have had a chance to review these suggestions. I'm working with Dudley Hoskins to arrange a time Friday to have a call with Undersecretary lbach and Jim Sutter to discuss these preliminary recommendations.

In any event, NGFA looks forward to continuing to work constructively with you and your great team to achieve our mutual goal of securing uninterrupted access to the Chinese market for U.S. soybeans and other agricultural products.

All best wishes for a happy, healthy and professionally and personally rewarding 2018!

Randy



Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports to China

Immediate Concerns:

The Jan. 1, 2018 effective date for implementing the 1% foreign material (FM) additional declaration on APHIS-issued phytosanitary certificates has cut across prior-negotiated contracts between Chinese buyers, U.S. export sellers and U.S. elevators/producers that were consummated based upon a different FM quality standard (i.e., 2% maximum FM). The industry continues to encourage the U.S. government to explore the possibility of some type of grace period to accommodate for these existing contracts.

There also is a pressing need for the U.S. and China to collaborate on a joint communication to provide more specificity about what will occur upon arrival in China of U.S. soybeans. The lack of clarity over what official and commercial measures may be taken upon arrival is creating uncertainty that put future U.S. soybean exports to China at risk.

Recommendations:

- 1. Concerning the contract/grace period issue, one face-saving option might be to suggest to China that the 1% FM additional declaration apply to exporter contracts entered into on or after Jan. 1, 2018.
- 2. For U.S. soybean shipments that arrive without the new additional 1% FM additional declaration, China needs to clearly and specifically define what the term "expedited agricultural clearance" means (e.g., no further inspection?). Does "expedited agricultural clearance" involve any additional steps or requirements by China beyond those currently in effect?
- 3. Additional clarity also particularly is needed for U.S. soybeans arriving with the new additional declaration that the shipment exceeds 1 percent FM. It is our understanding that commercial parties will conclude that shipments containing greater than 1% FM will be treated in a new and potentially more trade-restrictive (but unknown) fashion. Reflective of this concern, exporters now are being told by financial institutions that they will not "silently confirm" letters of credit for cargoes that have the 1% FM declaration. Similarly, the industry is not aware of instructions, if any, that may have been given to Chinese importers of U.S. soybeans that contracted for soybeans with 2% maximum FM that prevailed previously.

¹ In letters of credit, in addition to the commitment of the <u>issuing bank</u>, the <u>advising bank</u> can, by silent confirmation, enter into its own, independent commitment to pay or accept. In contrast to the <u>confirmed letter of credit</u>, in this case there is no confirmation instruction given by the <u>issuing bank</u>. Silent confirmations are thus purely agreements between the <u>beneficiary</u> and the "silently <u>confirming</u>" bank. In <u>order</u> to enforce its claim, the "silently <u>confirming</u>" bank requires the <u>assignment</u> of all the rights of the <u>beneficiary</u> under the letter of credit.



- 4. Starting immediately for all U.S. soybean shipments to China, retain FGIS Official samples, including the FM portions, and have the Agricultural Marketing Service's weed seed laboratory examine and report on weed seed content. Samples should be retained for an indefinite period (for the time being). The results of the weed seed analysis for each individual shipment should be shared on a confidential basis with the selling party listed on the load order provided to FGIS. Comprehensive results of the weed seed analysis should be assembled and retained confidentially within AMS/FGIS for the exclusive consideration of the Secretary of Agriculture until the Secretary authorizes further dissemination.
- **5.** Develop a joint U.S.-China statement on specific procedures/processes that will apply upon vessel discharge in China. For instance, would the Chinese be willing to expressly state that U.S. cargoes exceeding 1% FM:
 - May be subject to additional inspection to determine if weed seeds of quarantine concern in China are present in the shipment?
 - ➤ If so, agree that such shipments containing detected quarantine weed seeds would be subject to additional cleaning, treatment or other phytosanitary-protective actions within China (such as processing to denature the weed seeds and/or tarping or otherwise protecting vehicles during transport) as part of the systems approach to facilitate continued imports of U.S. soybeans?
 - Agree that shipments exceeding 1% FM that do **not** contain quarantine weed seeds would receive the same "expedited" treatment as shipments with 1 percent or less FM? Further, would China be willing to accept U.S. weed-seed test results obtained by USDA at U.S. loading ports in lieu of additional testing at destination/discharge in China?

Longer-Term Concerns:

1. Use of FM to Manage Phytosanitary Risk: There is a need to obtain data to determine whether there is a science-based correlation between FM levels (a quality factor) and the presence of weed seeds (a phytosanitary issue). Simply put, is it appropriate to use FM as a tool to manage a phytosanitary risk like weed seeds? If data do not establish such a linkage, the United States and China could work during the next two years to document that the systems approach (including weed-seed control best practices on-farm and other appropriate phytosanitary-protective measures at import) are more effective than FM in controlling guarantine weed seeds of concern.

Recommendation: As noted previously, immediately begin comprehensive representative Official sampling and testing of all U.S. soybean cargoes destined to China for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the presence of quarantine weed seeds at AMS weed seed laboratories to build the database needed.

2. Differential Chinese Treatment of U.S. Soybeans: China appears to be enforcing its 1% FM standard exclusively on U.S. soybeans, while not imposing the same requirement on imports from Brazil, Argentina or other origins. It is recommended that the appropriate U.S. government entity discuss this discrepancy with China as a potential violation of its World Trade Organization commitments.



Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC From:

To: - OSEC, Washington, DC Stephen Censky's alias email

Cc: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC

Re: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Subject:

Exports to China

Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 7:40:49 PM

Resending with Greg's correct email.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2017, at 6:28 PM, - OSEC, Washington, DC (6) <u>@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote: <u>Stephen Censky's alias email</u>

Greg,

Here is what Randy sent as a follow up to our conversation. (b) (b) - Deliberation

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org> **Date:** December 28, 2017 at 4:09:51 PM MST

To: "Steve Censky (osec.usda.gov)" < osec.usda.gov>

Stephen Censky's alias

email

Subject: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports to

China

Dear Steve,

Thanks again for your return call this morning

As promised, I'm attaching some preliminary thoughts and recommendations for your consideration to address several immediate needs/concerns related to successful implementation of the Systems approach for U.S. soybean exports to China. I apologize for the delay, but I did want to have some additional discussions today before forwarding this.

As I noted this morning, I think it might be good upon your return to convene an interagency group with the industry (e.g., USSEC) to discuss next steps after you and Undersecretary Ibach have had a chance to review these suggestions. I'm working with Dudley



Hoskins to arrange a time Friday to have a call with Undersecretary lbach and Jim Sutter to discuss these preliminary recommendations.

In any event, NGFA looks forward to continuing to work constructively with you and your great team to achieve our mutual goal of securing uninterrupted access to the Chinese market for U.S. soybeans and other agricultural products.

All best wishes for a happy, healthy and professionally and personally rewarding 2018!

Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

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<image001.jpg>

<!--[if !vml]-->

<image003.png>

<!--[endif]-->2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION | Mar. 18-20 | Scottsdale,

AZ **LEARN MORE**

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<Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports to China.docx>



From: Randy Gordon

To: Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: RE: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean

Exports to China

Date: Thursday, December 28, 2017 6:35:55 PM

Steve.

Between us, Dudley preferred having the call with Greg rather than receiving the document at this stage. I've also confirmed with Jim Sutter that he can join the call with Greg at 2pm Eastern tomorrow; Jim's in Colorado, too (great minds!).

Again, the thoughts in the document are mine, although I do think some of the points reflect the views of exporters and lenders that are joint members of NGFA and NAEGA.

Hope you have some time to enjoy Colorado!

Randy

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto: @osec.usda.gov] Stephen Censky's alias email

Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 6:23 PM

To: Randy Gordon < (6) (6) @ngfa.org>

Cc: Appleton, Brooke - OSEC, Washington DC < Brooke. Appleton@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach

for U.S. Soybean Exports to China

Thank you Randy. Let us take a look at these suggestions. Agree a meeting next week would be a good next step.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 28, 2017, at 4:10 PM, Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > wrote:

Dear Steve,

Thanks again for your return call this morning (b) (6)

As promised, I'm attaching some preliminary thoughts and recommendations for your consideration to address several immediate needs/concerns related to successful implementation of the Systems approach for U.S. soybean exports to China. I apologize for the delay, but I did want to have some additional discussions today before forwarding this.

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a call with Undersecretary Ibach and Jim Sutter to discuss these preliminary recommendations.

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Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

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<image001.jpg>

<image003.png>2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION | Mar. 18-20 | Scottsdale, AZ |

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<Preliminary Suggestions on Additional USDA Follow-Up Actions on Systems Approach for U.S. Soybean Exports to China.docx>

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From: Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: RE: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

Date: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 12:14:06 PM

I'll check, (b) (5) - Deliberative

This year, it's almost 700 people!

(b) (5) - Deliberative

(b) (5) - Deliberative

I'll get more data.

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2017 12:07 PM

To: Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC < Chris. Young@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 27, 2017, at 12:02 PM, Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC < Chris.Young@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

This is actually handled out of Terri Meighan's group. I talked to her this morning.

b) (5) - Deliberative

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Terri's folks will be in touch with Ben to begin the process and learn a little more about his interests.



Chris

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 8:11 AM

To: Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC < Chris.Young@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Fwd: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

Chris,

This appears to be your department. Let me know.

sp

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Danny Brown** < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Date: Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 3:23 PM

Subject: Re: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

To: Ben Morris (b) (6)

Ben, I will mention it to the Secretary when I see him. Thanks and Merry Christmas to you and your Family. Danny Brown

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Ben Morris (b) (6) > wrote:

Danny,

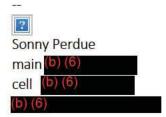
Hope all is well around the holidays for you and your family. I wanted to reach out in hopes of you passing a message along to Sec. Perdue. I applied to the 2018 PMF program that the federal government puts on and got accepted. Several different agencies including the dept of Ag. have opportunities and I was wondering if Sec. Perdue had any input on these appointments. If there are any that would be beneficial for a Ag major from UGA. I'm really excited about this opportunity and wanted to see if the Secretary had any recommendations.

Thanks again Danny, and Merry Christmas!

Best Regards,

Ben Morris







From: Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue

Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 3:21:54 PM

I'm on it. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 26, 2017, at 8:11 AM, Sonny Perdue <(b) (6)

Chris,

This appears to be your department. Let me know.

sp

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Date: Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 3:23 PM

Subject: Re: Presidential Management Fellow Program (PMF)

To: Ben Morris < (b) (6)

Ben, I will mention it to the Secretary when I see him. Thanks and Merry Christmas to you and your Family. Danny Brown

On Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 11:19 AM, Ben Morris < (b) (6) wrote:

Danny,

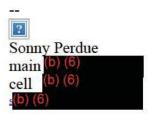
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Thanks again Danny, and Merry Christmas!

Best Regards,

Ben Morris





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From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email
Subject: Fwd: Private and Confidential -- Update on Section 199A Tax Issue

Date: Friday, February 9, 2018 10:43:54 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.htm

image003.png ATT00002.htm

NGFA Member Alert - Update on Resolving Section 199A Tax Issue (Feb. 9, 2018).pdf

ATT00003.htm

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

To: "Heidi Green (Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov)" < Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>,

"Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov)"

<dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Private and Confidential -- Update on Section 199A Tax Issue

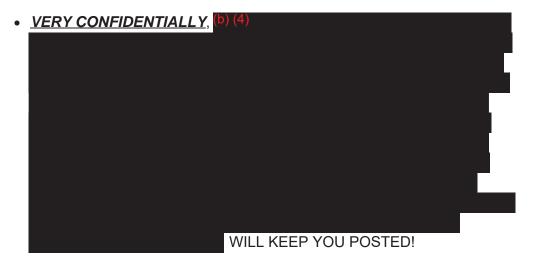
Heidi and Dudley,

Wanted to update you on my understanding of the state-of-play as of last night on 199A.

- Evidently, we were even closer than I thought to getting this included in
 the CR enacted this morning. Learned late yesterday that work
 continued into the wee hours of Thursday morning. The principals
 (including Sens. Roberts, Thune and Hoeven) were having conversations
 with McConnell and Schumer, as well as Speaker Ryan, about including
 a legislative fix. But evidently House Ways & Means Committee
 Chairman Brady said he wanted to look at the language closer and said
 his tax staff was thinking about a different approach to resolving this.
- Senate Finance Committee tax staff now is working to "clean up" and streamline the hard copy of the legislative language I shared with you yesterday, and is in conversation with Ways & Means tax staff to determine the alternative approach it is considering. Senate Finance is kind of in a holding pattern awaiting draft language from Ways & Means. But we hope to see the House approach soon, perhaps as early as this weekend. NGFA also is reaching out separately to Ways & Means, and understand that Rep. Adrian Smith is working on language, as well assume he's coordinating closely with his fellow Ways & Means tax staffers. We'll also continue to stay in touch with Senate Finance tax experts Mark Warren (Thune), Chris Allen (Roberts) and Chris Conlin



(Grassley).



• Finally, attached is the NGFA Member Alert distributed to our members this morning. I (hopefully subtly) recognize USDA for its "strong encouragement and support" in getting this issue resolved quickly. The alert also contains the media statement that NGFA issued last night and which I shared with you previously.

Dudley, please feel free to share this message and attachment with Undersecretary Ibach as you see fit, and please express NGFA's appreciation for his continued focus on this issue.

Thanks again for your engagement on this! Will keep you posted!

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO
National Grain and Feed Association
1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)



NGFA Member Alert Update on Resolving Section 199A Tax Issue

Feb. 9, 2018

By Randy Gordon, President and CEO

As NGFA member companies likely are aware, legislation to correct the unforeseen impacts of Section 199A of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was not included in the continuing budget resolution that Congress enacted early this morning.

Efforts to arrive at an equitable solution were nonstop during the past week, and the NGFA and other stakeholders were very close to reaching an agreement with legislators but just ran out of time to resolve one or two remaining issues. In fact, discussions were occurring late into the evening on Feb. 7 at the highest levels of both chambers of Congress to determine if a final agreement could be reached and included in this week's spending bill.

I can assure you there continues to be a strong commitment and momentum from lawmakers in Congress and among stakeholders to arrive at a solution in the near-term so that legislative language can be attached to the next available bill moving to President Trump's desk. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also is providing its strong encouragement and support to resolving this issue quickly.

The next must-pass spending bill to be considered by Congress will be an omnibus budget package that must be enacted by March 23. But no one is sitting on their hands until then. Given the strong momentum and progress made, particularly over the last week, work is intensifying between and with the tax staff members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee – the two tax-writing committees of Congress – to finalize an equitable solution. The objective of this work remains two-fold:

- Replicate the tax treatment accorded to cooperatives and their farmer-patrons under previous Section 199 of the tax code, which was repealed by the new tax law; *and*
- Do so in a way that restores the competitive landscape of the marketplace that existed prior to enactment of Section 199A on Dec. 22, 2017.



NGFA has been blessed and gratified to have access to top tax experts from both cooperative and independent/private company members, whose professionalism and expertise have been invaluable in assisting NGFA in analyzing various legislative proposals designed to arrive at an equitable solution as quickly as possible. These tax experts and our staff have been working virtually nonstop, including over Super Bowl weekend, to analyze and provide constructive input to Congress. We've been thanked on multiple occasions by members of Congress and their staffs for the valuable input and balanced perspectives that NGFA has brought to this complicated issue.

NGFA's determination to resolve this issue equitably and expeditiously is captured in the media statement we issued on Feb. 8:

"The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) is disappointed that a solution to correct the unintended consequences of Section 199A could not be completed in time to include in the continuing budget resolution being considered by Congress this week. Considerable progress has been made during the last several weeks of intensive effort toward reaching an equitable solution. The two fundamental goals of these efforts remain to replicate the tax treatment accorded to cooperatives and their farmer-patrons under previous Section 199 of the tax code, and to do so in a way that restores the competitive landscape of the marketplace that existed prior to the enactment of Section 199A on Dec. 22, 2017.

"NGFA remains committed to achieving such an outcome expeditiously. We are gratified that the many members of Congress with whom we and other stakeholders are engaged on this issue are equally committed to enacting an equitable solution as part of the next available legislative vehicle. All concerned are very cognizant of the adverse and unforeseen disruptions Section 199A already is having in the marketplace and the perverse impacts it is having on companies' business decisions. As an organization that represents both farmer-owned cooperative and independent/privately organized companies, NGFA remains committed to working intensely and diligently with Congress and other stakeholders to resolve this issue promptly."

A reminder that you can access NGFA's information and resources on this issue on our website by clicking <u>here</u>.

I look forward to the next message from NGFA to its members on this issue to be one that reports that a solution has been reached, and that legislation that includes it is on its way to President Trump for signature. There will be no let-up in our efforts to achieve that successful outcome.



From:Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DCTo:Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Pro Ag

Date: Sunday, October 14, 2018 9:15:50 PM

Thanks, Peter. Good luck with your travels tomorrow and Tuesday.

-Ray

From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 5:19 PM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>; CloverAdams,

Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC < Jamie. Clover Adams@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Pro Ag

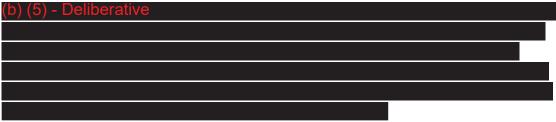
Ray -

Please see responses to Mr. Woods, below. (b) (5) - Deliberative

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2. Yields/prices must be proven back to 2013 for a WFRP policy for 2018 coverage. This producer also had WFRP in 2017 and the yields/prices were not questioned that year.



From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC **Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:10 AM

To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC < Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov; CloverAdams,

Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Jamie.CloverAdams@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: FW: Pro Ag



Importance: High

Peter and Jamie,



Let me know what you find out, please.

Thanks,
-Ray

From: Edgar Woods < page 2018 9:02 AM

To: Cameron Silveus < page 202 AM

To: Cameron Silveus < page 203 AM

To: Cameron Silveus < page 203 AM

Coropins.net >; Michael Harstine

Coropins.net >; Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov >; Scott Silveus (b) (6)

Coropins.net >; Jonathan Milling

Coropins.net >; Jon

Ray they are dismantling our customers in the Carolina's !!! 2017 and 2018 policy's !!!! We have talked about this but I can't stand on the sidelines anymore.

Can we jump on a call?

Just let me know

Appreciate it

Edgar

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Scott Mickey < @agridirections.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 8:37 AM

Subject: Pro Ag

To: < @palmettograin.com>

Good morning.

Pro Ag continues to increase the risk faced by SC/NC producers. Just yesterday, producers in NC were informed that:



- 1. Cotton must be harvested. This producer has been told by the gin that it would not accept its cotton because the stalk was under water for several days and they were not confident that the seed could be marketed. Yet the producer was told to harvest? He will incur significant expense yet receive no revenue to offset.
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Logically, these actions by ProAg appear malicious.

RMA should be made aware of these actions by PRO AG. To the farmers it appears that Pro AG is dictating their actions, but they are uncomfortable that no one is refereeing Pro Ag. The primary concern is not the request, but rather the timing of the requests. The policies were accepted by ProAG at signup. That was the point in time that ProAg should have expressed its concerns because then a producer would have been able to select alternative risk management strategies.

I would like to hear your perspective on this situation and discuss how producers can receive the risk protection that was offered in February.

Scott A. Mickey Agri-Directions, LLC PO Box 1945 Sumter, SC 29151



--

Edgar Woods

Palmetto Grain Brokerage 516 Browns Cove Road Unit J Ridgeland, SC 29936

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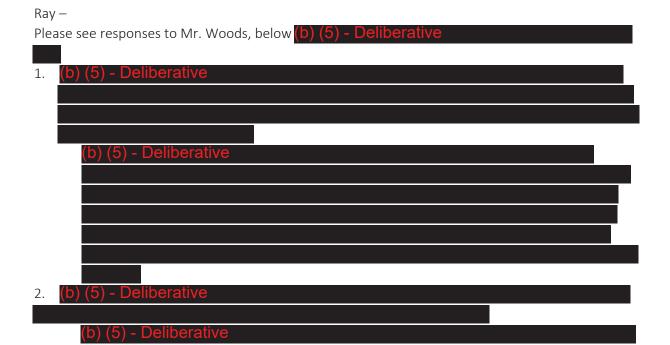
From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Pro Ag

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 5:19:11 PM

Attachments: mgr-18-011.pdf



From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC **Sent:** Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:10 AM

To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC < Peter. Bachmann@osec.usda.gov >; CloverAdams,

Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC < Jamie. Clover Adams@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Pro Ag **Importance:** High

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Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 9:02 AM

To: Cameron Silveus (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Michael Harstine (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

<<u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>; Scott Silveus (b) (6) @cropins.net>; Jonathan Milling

@millinglaw.net>
Subject: Fwd: Pro Ag

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BULLETIN NO.: MGR-18-011

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers

All Risk Management Agency Field Offices

All Other Interested Parties

FROM: Martin R. Barbre /s/ Martin R. Barbre 9/24/2018

Administrator

SUBJECT: Emergency Procedures for Crops Damaged by Hurricane Florence

BACKGROUND:

Hurricane Florence caused catastrophic damage in many counties in North Carolina and South Carolina. The Risk Management Agency (RMA), in conjunction with Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), recognize the need for authorizing emergency procedures that will streamline certain loss determinations on specific crops, accelerating the adjustment of losses and issuance of indemnity payments to crop insurance policyholders in impacted areas.

Many residents lost their primary residences to storm damage and/or have been evacuated from their homes. The local infrastructure for normal day-to-day activities has and will continue to be disrupted for some time during recovery. Due to the destruction of communication lines and the limited ability to travel in the impacted areas, many policyholders are unable to communicate with their agents to purchase or make changes to their crop insurance policy or report losses within the Common Crop Insurance Policy, Basic Provisions (18-BR) 72-hour requirement.

ACTION:

RMA authorizes the use of these emergency procedures applicable to all North Carolina and South Carolina counties impacted by Hurricane Florence:

Application of these emergency procedures is limited to those situations where the catastrophic nature of the losses due to insured perils is such that not authorizing these emergency procedures would result in unnecessary delays in processing claims and the ability to make timely policy decisions.

RMA is authorizing the following emergency procedures for AIPs to utilize, on a case-bycase basis, for all crops in counties impacted by Hurricane Florence to assist impacted policyholders and increase the efficiency of AIP services and determinations:



- (1) For the September 30 Sales Closing Date (SCD), AIPs may allow insureds to change coverage or apply for insurance if the request is sent via letter or electronically via email or text by the SCD. If the insured sends their request in such a manner, they will be required to follow up with a signed application or policy change form no later than October 31st. The insured agrees to be bound by their election based on their initial letter or electronic communication and cannot make any changes after the SCD.
- (2) In lieu of requirements to report damage within 72 hours, RMA authorizes AIPs to consider individual circumstances in accepting delayed notices of loss in accordance with the 2018 Loss Adjustment Manual (LAM) Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010-2H). Delayed notices of loss or delayed claims because of the hurricane do not require completion of the special report required by the LAM. Document such in the Narrative of the Production Worksheet (PW).
- (3) For all claims utilizing these emergency procedures, AIPs must:
 - (a) Submit all information through the Policy Acceptance and Storage System (PASS) for applicable Appendix III to the Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) record types with a simplified claim flag of "F."
 - (b) Document in each claim folder that these emergency procedures were applied. Record in the Narrative of the PW: "Emergency procedures applied per MGR-18-011."
- (4) AIPs may use reported acres certified on the acreage report as determined acres for claim purposes, unless:
 - (a) Acceptable measured acres as defined in the LAM are readily available (e.g., acreage measured during a previous inspection, precision farming records available, etc.); or
 - (b) The loss adjuster is able to make a visual observation at the time of loss adjustment and it is determined the reported acres certified on the acreage report appear unreasonable. In this case, the acreage must be determined according to LAM procedures. If the loss adjuster is unable to make a visual observation at the time of loss adjustment and the acreage seems excessive compared to historically reported acreage, then use the acreage from past crop insurance measurements, precision farming records, previous acreage reports, Farm Service Agency (FSA) acreage reports, crop insurance claims, etc., to determine the acreage for the claim.

NOTE: Current FCIC-issued loss adjustment procedures do not require the use of FSA documents, such as aerial photos, FSA-578, etc., to verify crop acreage or share.



- (5) For crops destroyed or damaged to the extent they will never be harvested (e.g., unable to be mechanically harvest, unable to gin, etc.).
 - (a) On the entire unit:
 - (i) Complete the PW, reflecting zero production to count.
 - (ii) An appraisal worksheet is not required.
 - (b) On part of the unit, field, or subfield:
 - (i) Estimate the acreage in the field or subfield based on the certified acreage from the acreage report (refer to (4) above).
 - (ii) Complete the PW, reflecting zero production to count for the destroyed/unharvestable field or subfield or modules that cannot be ginned.
 - (iii) An appraisal worksheet is not required on the destroyed/unharvestable acreage.
- (6) For crops not destroyed on the unit or part of the unit:
 - (a) A minimum number of three representative samples per unit are required without regard to the size of acreage if the damage is consistent. If there are more than three fields or subfields within the unit and the damage is consistent, only one representative sample per field or subfield is required. AIPs must notate as such in the Narrative of the PW.
 - (b) Estimate the acreage in the field(s) or subfield(s) based on the certified acreage from the acreage report (refer to (4) above).
 - (c) Record the harvested or appraised production on the applicable appraisal or PW.
- (7) For situations where the edible portion of an insured crop has been exposed to flood waters:
 - (a) Follow procedures found in subparagraphs 1108A and 1102H(3) of the LAM on Flooded Crops and Zero Market Value (ZMV) Production.
 - (b) AIPs may finalize claims based on policyholder's signed certification that the production will be destroyed. This certification may be included in the Narrative of the PW or on a separate certification form. The policyholder must sign and date the certification statement stating:

"I acknowledge my crop has been exposed to flood waters and is considered adulterated in accordance with FDA guidelines and:



- (i) For ALL CROPS, all such production will be destroyed in accordance with any applicable method prescribed by State or Federal regulations, as soon as possible but no later than December 31, 2018, unless an extension has been granted by my AIP; and
- (ii) I understand that if any portion of my ZMV production is salvaged (sold, ginned, etc.), I will notify my AIP immediately; resulting in an adjusted claim and repayment of any overpaid indemnity."

NOTE: Because cottonseed is a food/feed product and cannot be separated from the lint without ginning, any cotton exposed to flood water is considered adulterated in accordance with FDA guidelines. This production will be considered zero production to count provided the policyholder signs the appropriate documents with the certification statement identified above.

- (8) For situations where cotton has not been exposed to flood water but is considered unable to be ginned due to an insurable cause of loss:
 - (a) Follow procedure found in subparagraph 1102H of the LAM on ZMV Production.
 - (b) The AIP must obtain documentation from the gin stating the cotton is unable to be ginned.
 - (c) AIPs may finalize claims based on policyholder's signed certification that the production will not be ginned and will be destroyed. This certification may be included in the Narrative of the PW or on a separate certification form. The policyholder must sign and date the certification statement stating:

"I will not attempt to have the cotton ginned and will destroy the production, utilizing a destruction method that will render the cotton unusable, as soon as possible but no later than December 31, 2018, unless an extension has been granted by my AIP. I understand that if any portion of my ZMV production is salvaged (sold, ginned, etc.), I will notify my AIP immediately; resulting in an adjusted claim and repayment of any overpaid indemnity."

(9) For Tobacco:

- (a) AIPs discretion to waive the stalk inspection on a case-by-case basis.
- (b) Loss of electrical power from Hurricane Florence to curing barns is an insurable cause of loss.
- (c) At the time of loss adjustment, estimate the number of pounds of tobacco damaged by power outages or flooding in the curing barn or on-farm storage facility that has zero value and cannot be properly weighed.



- (d) For production that the loss adjuster certifies is destroyed and has no value, use a certification statement in the Narrative of the PW to waive the requirement to witness the destruction of the damaged tobacco.
- (10) RMA will monitor claims over \$200,000 and if the level of claims in excess of \$200,000 rises above 5% of all claims within the state, RMA will provide relief on the \$200,000 review requirement found in Appendix IV of the SRA.

RMA, working with AIPs, will issue additional emergency procedures as deemed necessary.

DISPOSAL DATE:

March 31, 2019



From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: <u>Edgar Woods</u>
Subject: RE: Pro Ag

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:18:02 AM

I really appreciate you reaching out. We will get to the bottom of it.

From: Edgar Woods (b) (6) @palmettograin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:16 AM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Pro Ag

thank you Ray, ready to talk or get as active as we need to. Another storm on the way. We have other AIP's that are doing the right thing as reference.

Edgar

On Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 10:10 AM Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC <<u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Edgar,

I've got someone looking into this and appreciate you flagging it. Let me see where we are at the end of the day.

-Ray

From: Edgar Woods < <a>palmettograin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 9:02 AM

To: Cameron Silveus (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Michael Harstine (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

< <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>; Scott Silveus (b) (6) <u>@cropins.net</u>>; Jonathan Milling

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Can we jump on a call?

Just let me know

Appreciate it



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Date: Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 8:37 AM

Subject: Pro Ag

To:

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Edgar Woods

Palmetto Grain Brokerage 516 Browns Cove Road Unit J



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Edgar Woods

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From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: Pro Ag

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:14:51 AM

(b) (5) - Deliberative

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 10:09:36 AM

To: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC; CloverAdams, Jamie - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: FW: Pro Ag

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- 2. Yields/prices must be proven back to 2013 for a WFRP policy for 2018 coverage. This producer also had WFRP in 2017 and the yields/prices were not questioned that year.

Logically, these actions by ProAg appear malicious.

RMA should be made aware of these actions by PRO AG. To the farmers it appears that Pro AG is dictating their actions, but they are uncomfortable that no one is refereeing Pro Ag. The primary concern is not the request, but rather the timing of the requests. The policies were accepted by ProAG at signup. That was the point in time that ProAg should have expressed its concerns because then a producer would have been able to select alternative risk management strategies.

I would like to hear your perspective on this situation and discuss how producers can receive the risk protection that was offered in February.

Scott A. Mickey Agri-Directions, LLC PO Box 1945 Sumter, SC 29151



(b) @agridirections.com

- .1

Edgar Woods

Palmetto Grain Brokerage 516 Browns Cove Road Unit J Ridgeland, SC 29936











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From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: <u>Johansson, Robert - OCE</u>

Subject: RE: Randy and I have a Tuesday meeting with OMB

Date: Friday, October 26, 2018 7:08:30 PM

Good

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE

Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 4:59 PM

To: Bachmann, Peter - OSEC Washington, DC <Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>; Starling, Raymond

OSEC, Washington, DC <Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>
 Subject: FW: Randy and I have a Tuesday meeting with OMB

FYI/ See below from NGFA.

From: Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 4:16 PM

To: Johansson, Robert - OCE <<u>RJohansson@oce.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** RE: Randy and I have a Tuesday meeting with OMB

Good point on the discounts and basis. We'll be share to cover this year's high damage discounts and wide basis levels.

Max

From: Johansson, Robert - OCE <<u>RJohansson@oce.usda.gov</u>>

Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 4:09 PM
To: Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: Re: Randy and I have a Tuesday meeting with OMB

We have heard that discounts are an issue. You could explain that futures prices don't reflect basis and that cash prices don't necessarily reflect discounts even for forward contracts. Does that make sense?

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2018, at 2:50 PM, Max Fisher < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > wrote:

Rob,

As a follow-up to our meeting, we wanted you to know we secured a meeting with Susan Leetmaa and she plans to invite others from OMB to participate as well. Julie



Wise pointed us in the direction of OMB's Ag Branch for this go around.

In the meeting, Randy and I plan to explain how soybean exporters are struggling (especially in the PNW) to replace the absent Chinese demand. We'll also go through the unfolding market recalibration for domestic soybean trade flows in the absence of major volumes moving to China, i.e., the Dakotas. We also plan to ask for a timely announcement of the second round of payments to reduce uncertainty around marketing decisions.

Off the record, is there anything else OMB should hear to ensure they understand the market dynamics of the trade negotiations?

Thank you for your help,
Max
National Grain and Feed Association
(b) (6)

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From: Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

To: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC; Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Bcc: <u>Johansson, Robert - OCE</u>
Subject: RE: Rice and trade

Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 8:48:30 AM

(b) (5) - Deliberative

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Peter

(b) (5) - Deliberative











(b) (5) - Deliberative

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 8:38 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC < robert.johansson@osec.usda.gov>; Bachmann,

Peter - OCR, Washington, DC < Peter. Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Rice and trade

Peter and Rob, (b) (5) - Deliberative

They are scheduled to have dinner tonight, so just wanted to make sure we close the loop on that beforehand. Thanks!

Ken

Ken Barbic
Assistant Secretary-Office of Congressional Relations

U.S. Department of Agriculture Cell: (6)

From: Barbic, Ken - OSEC, Washington, DC Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 8:49 AM

To: Johansson, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC (robert.johansson@osec.usda.gov)

<robert.johansson@osec.usda.gov>; Bachmann, Peter - OCR, Washington, DC

<Peter.Bachmann@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov >

Subject: Rice and trade

Rob and Peter,

We met with the LA delegation this morning. (b) (5) - Deliberative



(b) (5) - Deliberative

? SP wanted me to follow-up.

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Thanks, we will need to follow-up with these offices on these issues.

Ken

Ken Barbic



Assistant Secretary – Office of Congressional Relations United States Department of Agriculture

Mobile: (b) (6)
Office: (202) 720-7095



From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: McKinney, Ted - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Fwd: RSVP: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade - August 30 @10am

Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 3:39:47 PM



From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at 3:18:47 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov > Subject: FW: RSVP: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade - August 30 @10am

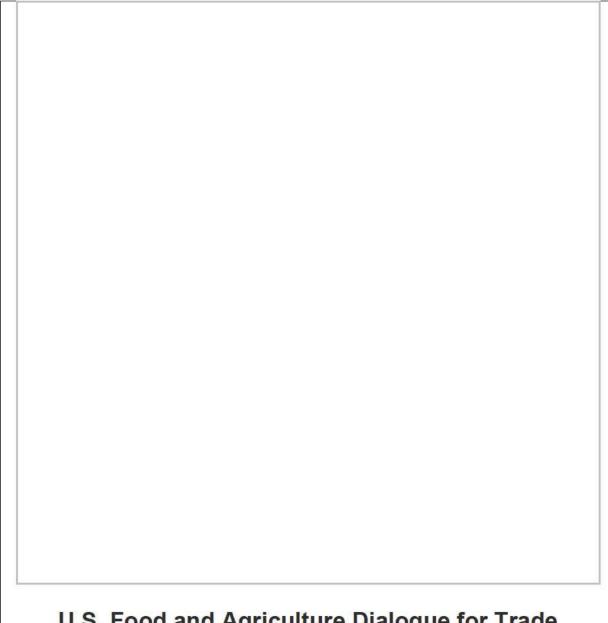
Just FWIW. The formal invitation announcement sent to the Dialogue group today confirming the meeting.

From: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade <info@naega.ccsend.com> **On Behalf Of** U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 3:07 PM
To: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: RSVP: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade - August 30 @10am





U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

When

Thursday, August 30, 2018 from 10:00

AM to 12:00 PM EDT

Add to Calendar

Please join the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade:

Where: American Farm Bureau Federation

When: Thursday, August 30 at 10:00am

All dialogue meetings are in person only and strictly off the

record.

Where

American Farm Bureau Federation

600 Maryland Ave. SW

Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20024

Agenda:

10:00-10:10am: Introductions and roll call

10:10-10:45pm: Briefing from the USDA





North American Export Grain Association, 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260, Arlington, VA 22202

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From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC
Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Rural Infrastructure "Conversation"
Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017 8:54:04 AM

thanks

From: Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2017 7:07 AM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Rural Infrastructure "Conversation"

Good morning Secretary,

I'm writing to share with you that we've received many kudos and expressions of true gratitude for yesterday's Infrastructure event at the White House. Of course, NEC (DJ and Ray) were both very thankful for your participation and for the way you so excellently explained the need for rural infrastructure to that important audience.

And I've heard from several folks who were in attendance how informative and helpful it was to hear your deep understanding of the subject matter itself, as well as the passion you conveyed about it. Everyone loved it!

Today we will begin reviewing all the takeaways and working to follow-up on some key points that were raised. We'll also aim to have further conversations with many that were there, and continue correspondence with all of the invitees.

Lastly, I'm sharing the email below, a nice exchange with Bobby Frederick at NGFA. After the White House event, I met with him and their chair for waterways, Scott Leininger. Bobby subsequently shared with me a summary of a study that was released yesterday, about the economic impact of lock outages - see below and the full 97-page report can be found here:

http://waterwayscouncil.org/wp-content/themes/waterways/images/NWF lock outage 2017.pdf. It was jointly sponsored by USDOT's MARAD and the National Waterways Foundation - the research and analysis was performed by the University of Tennessee and Vanderbilt University.

Thank you! Jannine

Jannine Miller
Senior Advisor for Rural Infrastructure
Office of the Secretary of Agriculture
Jannine.Miller@osec.usda.gov
202-597-0486



Begin forwarded message:

From: Bobby Frederick < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: November 1, 2017 at 11:10:02 PM EDT

To: "Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Jannine.Miller@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Cc:** "Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Blake.Rollins@osec.usda.gov</u>>, "Gilson,

Joseph - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Joseph.Gilson@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: Rural Infrastructure "Conversation"

Jannine-

Thanks for the note! Just getting a chance to catch up as well. Great job to team USDA for a well-run rural infrastructure event today. Lots to be excited about and also reinforced some of the work/messaging the grain guys need to continue with the hill. Thank you especially for taking the time to meet with Scott after the event.

That is nice of you to send Jeff's contact info- will reach out to him soon.

Finally, still pulling together some data/studies on modal shift, but wanted to initially send something that actually came out today from the National Waterways Foundation/University of Tennessee/Vanderbilt University.

I've highlighted some key figures in the press release below (study attached), but essentially, unscheduled closures result in billion dollar burdens to shippers (annually) and a significant number of railcars and truckloads to carry the cargo forward.

Thanks for the work y'all are doing.

Best, Bobby

Bobby Frederick Director of Legislative Affairs National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA)



From: Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: Section 199 Tax Impasse — Over One Last Issue

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2018 10:44:59 AM

K

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 8, 2018, at 11:37 AM, Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC < Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov > wrote:

Confidential and predecisional

Just talked to Randy and Dudley. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 8, 2018, at 10:26 AM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email <(b) (6) osec.usda.gov> wrote:

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 8, 2018, at 11:22 AM, Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC < Heidi. Green@osec.usda.gov > wrote:



Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 8, 2018, at 10:14 AM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Sonny Perdue's alias email Washington, DC < (b) (6) osec.usda.gov> wrote:

(b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 7, 2018, at 8:46 PM, Green, Heidi -



OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Date: February 7, 2018 at 7:14:48 PM

EST

To: "Heidi Green

(<u>Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov</u>)" < <u>Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Cc: "Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov)" <dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Section 199 Tax Impasse -- Over One Last Issue

Heidi and Dudley,

As a brief follow up, below is what NGFA's co-op and independent/private company tax experts had to say about the Friday night legislative draft we got from Senate Finance Committee before today's Hoeven-Thune compromise proposal). The Thune-Hoeven



compromise would allow farmers to annually claim either the 199A(a) deduction or the 199A(g) deduction, but not both. Combined business income and taxable income would not be reduced by the net income3 attributable to coop sales for purposes of Section 199A(a).

I'll bring our sideby-side analysis of the Senate Finance Committee language to our meeting tomorrow.

Look forward to seeing you both!

Best wishes, Randy

Here verbatim are the comments provided by each group of NGFA tax experts to Senate Finance Committee staff on Feb.2 draft legislative language:

Co-op Tax Experts' Comments: "The benefit under (a) should be the same to the producer



regardless of whether he sells to a co-op or a private. Exclusion of PIRPIMS means that a producer selling to a co-op loses all grainrelated revenues resulting in little or now (a) benefits on revenues on sales to co-ops. Producer does not have to subtract revenues associated with grain sales to privates, thus producing a larger (a) benefit to private grain transactions. Excluding PIRPIMS from the producers (a) calculation has a very high risk of creating an unintended consequence of forcing a shift of producer sales away from cooperatives to private industry. Wage-limited smaller cooperatives could be very negatively impacted."

Independent/Private
Tax Experts'
Comments: "The
balance between a
producer's directly
calculated 199
deduction and the
pass-through of a



199 deduction (since PURPIMS could not be double-counted under 199, a producer did not have an independent 199 deduction if he sold to a co-op) created a competitive playing field. Neither deduction was known at the time a sale was made, and either could be bigger or smaller. Excluding patron sales from the (a) deduction replicates this balance. The (a) deduction can be larger or smaller than the (g)(2)pass-through deduction, depending on the facts of the individual producer and co-op, and the relative size of either deduction is not known at the time a sales decision is made, creating competitive balance. If patrons can access (a) on their sales to coops, there is no fact pattern in which a sale to a private would produce a larger deduction, in which case no producer would sell to a



private and the competitive imbalance of existing 199(A)(a) (2) is perpetuated. Within the language used, the (a)(2) taxable income limit should be made consistent with the adjustment to QBI, which makes an adjustment for qualified payments less allowable deductions. It is unclear if (C) on page 16 achieves this objective.

From: Randy Gordon

Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018

6:45 PM

To: Heidi Green

(Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov) <Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov) <dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Section 199 Tax Impasse -- Over One Last Issue

Heidi,

Got your voicemail message, and I'll call to follow up.

As best as I can describe it, the LONE outstanding



issue in resolving the Section 199A tax issue is over the tax deduction allowance for farmer-patrons of cooperatives for passthroughs provided by their co-ops. The draft language developed by Senate Finance Committee tax staff would give farmer patrons a tax deduction equal to the *lesser* of: 1) the combined qualified business income amount of the taxpayer; or 2) an amount equal to 20 percent of the excess of any (a) taxable income or (b) the sum of the net capital gain plus the aggregate amount of qualified payments. The best person to explain the intricacies of all this and the state of play is Mark Warren, Sen. Thune's top tax person (202-224-6717).

Co-ops believe this language would disadvantage sales to cooperatives, thereby tilting the playing field to privates. In an



attempt to correct for this, Sens. Hoeven and Thune today offered a compromise developed by NCFC that would allow farmers to claim either the 199A(a) deduction or the 199A(g) deduction, but not both, on an annual basis. Under the proposal, combined business income and taxable income would not be reduced by the net income attributable to coop sales for purposes of Section 199A(a).

The same concept had been discussed during a Monday morning call with Senate Finance Committee taxwriting staff that included NGFA and its co-op and private/independent company tax experts, as well as tax experts from NCFC. The private/independent company tax experts are adamant in believing that this approach would mean that a producer who sells to a co-op would



never be worse off than a producer who sells to a private/independent, and that the failsafe option for the producer would be to always sell to a co-op, thereby perpetuating the unintended consequence of Section 199A. Meanwhile, NGFA's co-op tax experts believe the Senate Finance Committee legislative language we reviewed over the weekend tilts the playing field unfairly toward producers selling only to privates/ independents. Further, a tax expert serving as part of NGFA's team who represents both privates and coops believes that the proposed compromise is so even-handed that it would not preference producer sales one way or the other.

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon,

President and CEO National Grain and Feed Association



1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC; 10IG, GIO1 - OSEC, Washington, DC; Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington,

DC; Johansson, Robert - OCE

Subject: Fwd: Section 199 Tax Impasse -- Over One Last Issue

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:58:12 PM

Attachments: image003.png

See explanation below on outstanding 199a issue.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: February 7, 2018 at 6:45:17 PM EST

To: "Heidi Green (Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov)" < Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: "Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov)"

<dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Section 199 Tax Impasse -- Over One Last Issue

Heidi,

Got your voicemail message, and I'll call to follow up.

As best as I can describe it, the LONE outstanding issue in resolving the Section 199A tax issue is over the tax deduction allowance for farmer-patrons of cooperatives for passthroughs provided by their co-ops. The draft language developed by Senate Finance Committee tax staff would give farmer patrons a tax deduction equal to the <u>lesser of:</u> 1) the combined qualified business income amount of the taxpayer; <u>or</u> 2) an amount equal to 20 percent of the excess of any (a) taxable income or (b) the sum of the net capital gain plus the aggregate amount of qualified payments. The best person to explain the intricacies of all this and the state of play is Mark Warren, Sen. Thune's top tax person (202-224-6717).

Co-ops believe this language would disadvantage sales to cooperatives, thereby tilting the playing field to privates. In an attempt to correct for this, Sens. Hoeven and Thune today offered a compromise developed by NCFC that would allow farmers to claim either the 199A(a) deduction or the 199A(g) deduction, but not both, on an annual basis. Under the proposal, combined business income and taxable income would not be reduced by the net income attributable to co-op sales for purposes of Section 199A(a).

The same concept had been discussed during a Monday morning call with Senate Finance Committee tax-writing staff that included NGFA and its co-op and private/independent company tax experts, as well as tax experts from NCFC. The private/independent company tax experts are adamant in believing that this approach would mean that a producer who sells to a co-op would



never be worse off than a producer who sells to a private/independent, and that the failsafe option for the producer would be to always sell to a co-op, thereby perpetuating the unintended consequence of Section 199A. Meanwhile, NGFA's co-op tax experts believe the Senate Finance Committee legislative language we reviewed over the weekend tilts the playing field unfairly toward producers selling only to privates/ independents. Further, a tax expert serving as part of NGFA's team who represents both privates and co-ops believes that the proposed compromise is so even-handed that it would not preference producer sales one way or the other.

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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From: Jiron, Dan - OSEC, Washington, DC

To:

(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC

Sonny Perdue's alias email

Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC Cc: Subject: RE: Senator David Perdue Applauds Action To Improve Georgia National Forest

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 9:16:39 AM

Attachments: image001.png

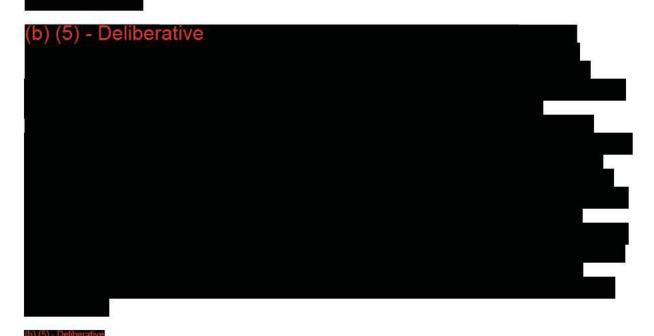
Mr. Secretary, per your question on Saturday about this proposed land exchange, here is the background on the proposal. We will monitor as it continues through the legislative process (5) - Deliberative

Dan

Date: May 30, 2018

(5) - Deliberative

(5) - Deliberative



(b) (5) - Deliberative

(b) (5) - Deliberative





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- (b) (5) Deliberative
- (b) (5) Deliberative

Dan Jiron Acting Deputy Under Secretary USDA Natural Resources & Environment 202-W Whitten Building 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250 202-720-7173

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, May 26, 2018 10:17 AM

To: Jiron, Dan - OSEC, Washington, DC < Dan.Jiron@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Senator David Perdue Applauds Action To Improve Georgia National Forest

Dan,

Ran across this while reviewing old emails. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Thanks,

Sonny





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 9, 2017

CONTACTS: Caroline Vanvick, 202-224-6594 Lesley Fulop, 202-224-1324

Senator David Perdue Applauds Action To Improve Georgia National Forest

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator David Perdue (R-GA), a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, today applauded the inclusion of legislation he introduced, the *Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment Act*, in the Federal Land Management Act of 2017, which passed the Agriculture Committee unanimously.

Senator Perdue's bill would improve management of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest by creating a more cohesive park boundary and also improve opportunities for recreation.

"This is an important step toward making the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest more manageable for park rangers," **said Senator Perdue.** "Updated park boundaries will improve opportunities for hunting, fishing, and hiking in northeast Georgia while making better use of taxpayer money. This legislation is a win-win, and I look forward to seeing it passed by the full Senate."

The *Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest Land Adjustment Act*, is co-sponsored by Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA). Companion legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA-9) on March 8, 2017. View the bill text here.

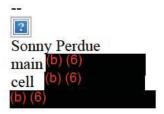
Background:

Currently, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) owns a substantial number of small, isolated tracts of land that are disconnected from the core lands of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Encroachment from growth and development has caused these tracts to lose their principle value for National Forest purposes, as they are outliers from the core forest block. This legislation outlines a solution, authorizing the sale of 30 isolated parcels identified as desired disposal by the USFS.

All proceeds from land sales will go directly to USFS and may only be used to buy inholding properties of high-value for conservation, recreation, and management from sellers within the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest boundary. Additionally, selling isolated parcels puts this land back on county tax rolls and revenue generated can be used to buy inholdings from willing sellers.



Senator Perdue is the only Fortune 500 CEO in Congress and is serving his first term in the United States Senate, where he represents Georgia on the Armed Services, Banking, Budget, and Agriculture Committees.





From: Rich, Michawn - OC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Young, Chris - OSEC, Washington, DC; Murtaugh, Tim - OC, Washington,

DC; Cole, Donald - OC, Washington, DC; Rodgers, Meghan - OC, Washington, DC; Wilkins, Jake - OSEC,

Washington, DC

Subject: Senators Cotton and Perdue Comment on Yesterday's White House Meeting

Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 1:09:52 PM

Senator Cotton and Senator Perdue Comment on Yesterday's White House Meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and David Perdue (R-GA) comment on yesterday's meeting at the White House on negotiations to fix the legal immigration system:

"President Trump brought everyone to the table this week and listened to both sides. But regrettably, it seems that not everyone is committed to negotiating in good faith. In regards to Senator Durbin's accusation, we do not recall the President saying these comments specifically but what he did call out was the imbalance in our current immigration system, which does not protect American workers and our national interest. We, along with the President, are committed to solving an issue many in Congress have failed to deliver on for decades."

###



Sonny Perdue's

alias email

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC

Sonny Perdue's alias email 6 - OSEC, Washington, DC To:

Subject: Re: Signed Letter to Chris Geswein Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 1:53:23 PM

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I will be glad to send the letter to Mr. Geswein immediately.

Thank you. -- Stuart

Stuart Bender

Director

Office of Ethics

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 347-W

Washington, DC 20250-1400

Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov

(202) 720-2251 (Desk) b) (6) (Cell)

USDA Ethics Webpage: www.ethics.usda.gov

wrote:

Stuart,

I think the letter satisfies Mr Geswein's question as to whether I was required in my agreement with OGE to divest AgrowStar.

On Jan 16, 2018, at 1:43 PM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < (b) (6) osec.usda.gov>

Thank you. You may send the letter.

Regards,

Sonny Perdue

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 11:42 AM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Signed Letter to Chris Geswein

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Attached is the signed letter to Mr. Chris Geswein. You had indicated to me that you wished to see a draft of the letter before I sent it to Mr. Geswein.



Out of an abundance of coordination, I just wanted to see if you had any questions before I send the signed letter (above) to Mr. Geswein.

Thank you. -- Stuart

STUART BENDER

DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF ETHICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1400 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.W., ROOM 347-W

WASHINGTON, DC 20250-1400

□ TELEPHONE: (202) 720-2251

MOBILE: (b) (6)

FAX: (202) 690-2642

□ E-MAIL: Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov

USDA Ethics Webpage: www.ethics.usda.gov

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 12:38 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov> Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: FW: Draft Letter for Chris Geswein

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I know that you have been incredibly busy and so, out of an abundance of care and good customer service, I just wanted to follow up to see if you had any questions or comments on the draft letter that I sent you on January 2nd.

To facilitate your review, I am re-attaching the draft letter to Mr. Chris Geswein as a WORD document as well as a PDF (the PDF version contains the attachments).

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on the draft. Many thanks! -- Stuart

From: Bender, Stuart - OE, Washington, DC Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 5:35 PM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Draft Letter for Chris Geswein

Sonny Perdue's alias email

Dear Mr. Secretary,



I hope you and your family had a wonderful New Year celebration. As requested, I am attaching a draft letter to Mr. Chris Geswein. To facilitate your review, I have attached a WORD version of the letter as well as a PDF with the two attachments referenced in the letter. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments on the draft. Many thanks! -- Stuart

<image001.jpg>

STUART BENDER

DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF **E**THICS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 347-W

Washington, DC 20250-1400

TELEPHONE: (202) 720-2251

Mobile: (b) (6)

Fax: (202) 690-2642

☑ E-MAIL: <u>Stuart.Bender@oe.usda.gov</u>USDA Ethics Webpage: <u>www.ethics.usda.gov</u>



From: Sonny Perdue

To: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC

Cc: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: Spud Gustin

Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 5:21:27 PM

Thank you Joby.

On Jul 31, 2018, at 5:19 PM, Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC <Joby. Young@osec.usda.gov> wrote:

I have inquired and hope to have a status update for you tomorrow morning.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (b) (6)

Please excuse brevity and typos Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 31, 2018, at 2:57 PM, Sonny Perdue < (b) (6) wrote:

Joby,

Please check on the facts on this one. Thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com > Date: July 31, 2018 at 12:48:27 PM AST

To: Spud Gustin < (b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Spud Gustin

Spud, I will be more than happy to forward this e-mail to Sonny for you. Sounds like your Hospital Authority has done everything they need to do, but something has got your request bogged down. Sometimes you don't need a "hand-out" just a hand. Good to here from you. Hope all is well in Winchester.

Danny

On Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 12:27 PM, Spud Gustin (b) (6) variety

Hello Danny. Thank you for sending this on to Sonny. I



appreciate your effort.
Thank you,
Spud Gustin, Winchester Ag Service.

Hello Sonny. This is Spud Gustin (Winchester Ag Service). I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this email concerning our local hospital. I have recently been appointed to the board of the Adams County Regional Medical Center in Adams county Ohio. The hospital is publicly owned and serviced through bonds at a rate of 6%. The board, along with RHG consulting, are trying to change are status to a 501c3. We have applied for a USDA loan at 3 1/2 % which would save our local hospital 20 million dollars over the life of the loan. My reason for reaching out to you is this. The loan process was started 2 years ago. We were rejected on 4 points that held no merit and we appealed those to the NAD. All 4 points were over turned by the appeals court and it was establish that the hospital had met all of the criteria for the loan. Six months has passed and USDA still will not give us an answer. I feel we are getting some political push back from within the local USDA. We have reached out to all of our local and state government agency however we have had no luck. With that said I would appreciate anything that you could do to help our local hospital as it plays a vital role in our rural economy. If you would like more details concerning this issue please feel free to call me at (b) (6) . As always it would be great to here from you. I hope this email finds you and your family doing well.

Sincerely,

Spud Gustin



From: Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue

Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: Spud Gustin

Date: Tuesday, July 31, 2018 3:06:59 PM

Yes sir. Will do ASAP.

Joby Young
Chief of Staff
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
Mobile: (6)

Please excuse brevity and typos Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 31, 2018, at 2:57 PM, Sonny Perdue (b) (6) wrote:

Joby,

Please check on the facts on this one. Thanks.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com > Date: July 31, 2018 at 12:48:27 PM AST To: Spud Gustin < (b) (6) >

Subject: Re: Spud Gustin

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On Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 12:27 PM, Spud Gustin

b) (6) > wrote:

Hello Danny. Thank you for sending this on to Sonny. I appreciate your effort.

Thank you,

Spud Gustin, Winchester Ag Service.

Hello Sonny. This is Spud Gustin (Winchester Ag Service). I would



like to thank you for taking the time to read this email concerning our local hospital. I have recently been appointed to the board of the Adams County Regional Medical Center in Adams county Ohio. The hospital is publicly owned and serviced through bonds at a rate of 6%. The board, along with RHG consulting, are trying to change are status to a 501c3. We have applied for a USDA loan at 3 1/2 % which would save our local hospital 20 million dollars over the life of the loan. My reason for reaching out to you is this. The loan process was started 2 years ago. We were rejected on 4 points that held no merit and we appealed those to the NAD. All 4 points were over turned by the appeals court and it was establish that the hospital had met all of the criteria for the loan. Six months has passed and USDA still will not give us an answer. I feel we are getting some political push back from within the local USDA. We have reached out to all of our local and state government agency however we have had no luck. With that said I would appreciate anything that you could do to help our local hospital as it plays a vital role in our rural economy. If you would like more details concerning this issue please feel free to call me at (b) (6)

. As always it would be great to here from you. I hope this email finds you and your family doing well.

Sincerely,

Spud Gustin

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From: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: Sunday night

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018 8:20:36 PM

Sir-

Just emailing you to confirm that you will meet with Randy at 8am for coffee before both of you transfer to the opening breakfast at 8:45am.

Best,

Taylor Crowe
Personal Assistant to the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

Sonny Perdue's alias email

> On Mar 16, 2018, at 9:02 AM, (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < (b) osec.usda.gov> wrote: >

> Thanks Randy,

>

> I'm happy to do either. My plane is scheduled to arrive at 9:05. Not sure how long it will take us to get to hotel. I'm flexible though. Taylor Crowe, who travels with me should know our ETA at hotel. I'm also up to meeting prior to breakfast if you need to share any late breaking news or topics to address. I don't have a particular need to meet offline unless you all would like to visit more privately. Your call.

> See you soon

>

>

> Sonny

>

> Taylor Crowe's number is 202-720-6445.

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Mar 16, 2018, at 8:32 AM, Randy Gordon < (6) (6) @ngfa.org> wrote:

>>

>> Mr. Secretary,

>>

>> It's a tremendous honor to have you keynote the convention, and thanks for making the long trip! Despite how absolutely wonderful and incredibly talented/capable your COS is -- and the terrific job you, she and all your team has been doing -- it will be great to finally get to talk with you on occasion!

>>

>> Glad to meet privately or bring along any of our officers or your NGFA texting friends as you see fit. You'll be seated with our officer team at breakfast Monday morning, so will have some time there to connect, as well.

>>

>> Really looking forward to catching up! You name the time, as I'm wide open schedule-wise Sunday night.

>>

>> All the best,

>> Randy

>>

>> ----Original Message----

>> From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov]



```
Sonny Perdue's alias email
>> Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:12 AM
>> To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < (b)
                                              osec.usda.gov>; Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
>> Subject: Sunday night
Sir I would like to introduce you to Randy Gordon...you might recognize his name!
>> Randy suggested that meeting on Sunday night would be great. He asked if you wanted John Fletcher or some
others to come along? Let us know if you want anyone to join and we will set it up!
>>
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
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>>
>>
>> This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any
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notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



From: Randy Gordon

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: Sunday night

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:09:40 AM

Thanks, Mr. Secretary. I'll give Taylor a call and we'll work it out. Glad to do a few minutes over coffee before breakfast if you want to get some sleep!

```
From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto (b) osec.usda.gov] Sonny Perdue's alias email

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 9:03 AM

To: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC < Heidi. Green@osec.usda.gov>; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC < Taylor. Crowe@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Sunday night
```

Thanks Randy,

I'm happy to do either. My plane is scheduled to arrive at 9:05. Not sure how long it will take us to get to hotel. I'm flexible though. Taylor Crowe, who travels with me should know our ETA at hotel. I'm also up to meeting prior to breakfast if you need to share any late breaking news or topics to address. I don't have a particular need to meet offline unless you all would like to visit more privately. Your call.

See you soon

Sonny

Taylor Crowe's number is 202-720-6445.

Sent from my iPad

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```

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> Glad to meet privately or bring along any of our officers or your NGFA texting friends as you see fit. You'll be seated with our officer team at breakfast Monday morning, so will have some time there to connect, as well.

> Really looking forward to catching up! You name the time, as I'm wide open schedule-wise Sunday night.

```
> All the best,
> Randy
>
```

> -----Original Message-----> From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov]

> Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:12 AM
> To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) osec.usda.gov>; Randy Gordon <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>

> Subject: Sunday night > Sonny Perdue's alias email

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>
> Randy suggested that meeting on Sunday night would be great. He asked if you wanted John Fletcher or some
others to come along? Let us know if you want anyone to join and we will set it up!
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> Sent from my iPhone
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From: Randy Gordon

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: Re: THANK YOU PROFUSELY!

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 10:57:19 PM

Great. Thanks! We'll be glad to circulate the WH list to the Dialogue list do you don't get flooded with individual requests.

Thanks again!!

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 30, 2018, at 9:36 PM, Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov > wrote:

We will work up a document re WH contacts.

Thanks for the opportunity. Amazing group of folks around that table.

From: "Randy Gordon" < online on the image of the image o

<<u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** THANK YOU PROFUSELY!

Ray,

Thanks again for taking your valuable time to speak and engage with the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade group this morning. It was the biggest attendance we've had ever. Your off-the-record remarks were VERY informative, and we appreciate your customary candor and openness (as always)! Based on discussion after you left, I think USDA will be receiving a lot of meeting requests from organizations represented in the Dialogue.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out of NGFA or the broader Dialogue group whenever we can be of assistance, including on trade messaging. In fact, I'd appreciate getting White House NEC and OSTB contacts you think NGFA should meet with to discuss the U.S.-Mexico preliminary agreement and non-tariff trade barriers (SPS, biotech, etc.) important to the grain and oilseed export sector.

Thanks again for your extraordinarily stellar service to the Nation!

All best wishes, Randy



Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202



<image001.jpg>

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From: Randy Gordon

To: Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: RE: Thanks for your Call!

Date: Monday, April 2, 2018 1:21:05 PM

Steve,

Sorry for my belated response. I conveyed your message to Gary, so no need to call. Thanks again for the follow up!

Best wishes, Randy

From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto: 6) @osec.usda.gov] Stephen Censky's alias email

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:34 AM

To: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: RE: Thanks for your Call!

You are welcome, Randy. I plan to call Jim Sutter as well. Would you suggest that I call Gary, too?

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-720-6052

From: Randy Gordon [mailto(b) (6) _@ngfa.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 8:42 AM

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC < @osec.usda.gov> Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: Thanks for your Call!

Dear Mr. Deputy Secretary,

Thanks so much for your return call yesterday, and I apologize for not being at my desk.

I greatly appreciate the update and progress report, and your decision to ask Under Secretary McKinney and FAS to take the lead on the broader China trade issues, with, as you say, support from Under Secretary Ibach and APHIS, as appropriate. I believe Gary Martin followed up on at least a couple of phone conversations with Under Secretary McKinney about the China situation last week during our joint convention. (b) (4)



(b)(4)

As Under Secretary McKinney and your team put together a strategy for addressing these ag trade issues with China, perhaps we can regroup at some point early next month? Our sense is that with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin's and Ambassador Lighthizer's outreach on behalf of President Trump to China, we may have an opportunity that can be seized upon to include in the bilateral discussions some of these important agricultural trade issues, as well.

I don't want to interrupt your busy schedule with return call, Steve, but remain totally available to you and your great team whenever you think it would be timely to further discuss or reengage.

All best wishes,

Randy (b) (6)

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From: Pick, Rachel - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Dy (6) Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Tommy Irwin

Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 10:31:34 AM

Mr. Secretary,

I'm not certain if you've heard yet, but, Joyce wanted to pass the information along that former Georgia Ag Commissioner Tommy Irwin passed away. She and I spoke on the phone and she said that if you're with Commissioner Black today, he'll have more information.

Thank you. Have a great trip and let me know if you need anything.

Thank you, Rachel

Rachel H. Pick

Special Assistant and Advisor to the Secretary United States Department of Agriculture

From: White, Joyce (Perdue) [mailto:Joyce_White@perdue.senate.gov]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 10:13 AM

To: Pick, Rachel - OSEC, Washington, DC < Rachel. Pick@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Hey Rachel!

I wanted to make sure that the Secretary knows that our former Commissioner of Agriculture, Tommy Irwin, passed away. I don't know any details as of yet, but will pass along to you once I know. Secretary Perdue and Commissioner Irwin were on opposite sides of the aisle, but had respect for one another. Tommy Irwin was the Commissioner here in Georgia for probably 40 or so years.

Joyce



From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: (b) @ngfa.org

Cc: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Re: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Letter to President Trump

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 10:38:30 PM

Thank you Randy!

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2018, at 6:03 PM, Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org > wrote:

Dear Mr. Secretary and Chief of Staff Green,

I hope this finds you both well and in good health and spirits.

Attached is a letter from the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade concerning China and the CPTPP. As you know, NGFA is one of the founders of this entity, and serves on its steering committee.

We attempted to make the letter's substance and tone constructive and positive, recognizing the President's end-objective is to bring about fundamental, positive changes in the U.S.-China trade relationship, and hope the letter comes across that way. Frankly, we hope it balances out the messaging from some that focus too much on the strategy being deployed (i.e., tariffs) and misses the macro objective. The main takeaway of the letter, which we trust comes through, is to urge that high-level negotiations with China begin as soon as possible to achieve that shared objective.

Copies of this letter also is being sent to Undersecretary McKinney, as well as to Ray Starling and Ambassador Doud, in addition to the others shown as cc'd.

The Dialogue group remains available to serve as a constructive resource to the Trump Administration in bringing about needed change in the trading relationship with China, and in spurring expanded trade with Japan and other Asia-Pacific countries.

Thanks again for all your tireless work on behalf of U.S. food and agriculture! You, your families and your team remain in our daily prayers!

All best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO
National Grain and Feed Association
1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)



<image001.jpg>

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<Dialogue Asia Letter to President Trump on China CPTPP - April 19 2018 - Final.pdf>

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From: Randy Gordon

To: <u>The Honorable Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue</u>

Cc: <u>Heidi Green (Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov)</u>

Subject: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Letter to President Trump

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 6:03:36 PM

Attachments: Dialogue Asia Letter to President Trump on China CPTPP - April 19 2018 - Final.pdf

Dear Mr. Secretary and Chief of Staff Green,

I hope this finds you both well and in good health and spirits.

Attached is a letter from the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade concerning China and the CPTPP. As you know, NGFA is one of the founders of this entity, and serves on its steering committee.

We attempted to make the letter's substance and tone constructive and positive, recognizing the President's end-objective is to bring about fundamental, positive changes in the U.S.-China trade relationship, and hope the letter comes across that way. Frankly, we hope it balances out the messaging from some that focus too much on the strategy being deployed (i.e., tariffs) and misses the macro objective. The main takeaway of the letter, which we trust comes through, is to urge that high-level negotiations with China begin as soon as possible to achieve that shared objective.

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Thanks again for all your tireless work on behalf of U.S. food and agriculture! You, your families and your team remain in our daily prayers!

All best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)

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Asia-Pacific Working Group, U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

April 19, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Asia-Pacific Working Group, a subset of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade, believes that your Administration has an important opportunity to improve the international trade and investment environment and expand economic and employment prospects for American workers, farmers, ranchers, processors, agri-businesses and food manufacturers.

We encourage progress and agreements to reduce and eliminate serious, inappropriate and distortive trade and investment impediments deployed for several years by China. We stand ready to support intense and timely high-level negotiations to avoid the negative impacts of increased tariffs and other restrictions on economic engagement between our two countries. We recognize that while several proposed tariffs have not been implemented, and should not be unless deemed consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, their mere announcement has roiled agricultural commodity markets and threatened to significantly impair the supplier relationships our sector has worked hard to establish in China over the past two decades.

We also strongly support the Administration pivoting expeditiously toward an ambitious trade agenda with Asia-Pacific countries and commencing negotiations with Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) members to open new markets and preserve existing trade for American food, agricultural and other U.S. products.

Asia-Pacific Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade ("Dialogue"):

As noted previously, the Asia-Pacific Working Group is a subset of the Dialogue, which is comprised of more than 100 organizations representing America's farmers, ranchers, processors, agri-businesses and manufacturers of human food and animal feed.



The Honorable Donald J. Trump April 19, 2018 Page Two

The many employees, businesses and organizations engaged in the Dialogue have worked successfully to foster improved relations with China through information exchange, trade and investment. As a leading sector for manufacturing in the United States, the ability to access one of the largest markets in the world has yielded measurable gains for U.S. job-creators, American consumers and workers, and U.S. economic growth.

China:

Today, China is the second largest export market for American food and agricultural products and is a critical export customer, especially now that the U.S. agricultural sector is incurring low commodity prices and serious economic challenges. We are acutely aware of, and acknowledge, the long-standing obstacles that U.S. companies, manufacturers and their workers confront when doing business with China. Further, we appreciate your Administration's desire to meaningfully address actions by China that impede U.S. trade and investment opportunities. Like other sectors of the American economy, U.S. food and agricultural interests are affected negatively by China's investment restrictions imposed on non-Chinese entities, intellectual property infringements, forced technology transfers and other policies that disadvantage American firms over Chinese domestic companies and state-owned enterprises.

Remarks by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the recent Boao Forum for Asia appear to provide an opening to engage in a meaningful, intensive and high-level dialogue with the United States. Engagement now via swift, constructive and high-level negotiations to bring about change before the imposition of additional tariffs that would harm both countries, combined with regularized bilateral interactions between our two governments, have the prospect of achieving a fundamentally improved, long-lasting and more reciprocal trade relationship between the United States and China. Input from the U.S. food, agriculture and business community can be marshalled in both the short- and long-term to secure gains. It is clear that leverage is needed to spur meaningful negotiations. In this regard, we strongly encourage aggressive use of the WTO dispute-settlement system through cases brought in concert with other WTO-member countries, as well as other mechanisms that would not result in violations of America's own WTO obligations.

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):

We also believe U.S. leverage would be strengthened by the successful conclusion of negotiations to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which would enable the Administration to pivot to re-engaging in negotiations with Asia-Pacific countries that are part of the CPTPP.



The Honorable Donald J. Trump April 19, 2018 Page Three

In that regard, we are very pleased that the topic of expanding trade and investment ties with Japan was a principal point of discussion in meetings with Prime Minister Abe this week. Expeditiously determining a path forward to re-engage in CPTPP negotiations – as you envisioned during your address at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland – would be a concrete action that would enhance America's global competitiveness and further spur U.S. economic growth and job creation, while benefitting American consumers.

Summary:

In summary, the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the Dialogue looks forward to working with your Administration to maintain and improve the international trade and investment environment, including by addressing the direct interests of the American food and agricultural sector as well as practices negatively affecting the U.S.-China relationship. We also strongly support the Administration pivoting expeditiously toward a constructive and pro-growth trade agenda with Asia-Pacific countries and commencing negotiations with CPTPP members to open new markets and preserve existing trade for American food, agricultural and other U.S. products.

The U.S. food and agricultural sector supports and benefits from strong exports, as well as economic and other ties between the United States, China and the rest of the world, and looks forward to working with your Administration to achieve these shared goals.

Sincerely,

Asia-Pacific Working Group, U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

Cc: The Honorable Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative

The Honorable Lawrence A. Kudlow, Chairman, National Economic Council

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Gregg Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

The Honorable Ted McKinney, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture



From: Randy Gordon

To: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

Subject: RE: UPDATE -- Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for

Trade in July

Date: Wednesday, July 4, 2018 4:15:32 PM

Ray,

Happy Independence Day!

No apologies needed whatsoever – or ever! Given the positive meeting with the VP and the hope for positive messaging on trade during July – and, most importantly, the increasing nervousness among even our "friends" in the ag community the interim – I was hoping we could provide some level of reassurance through you to the ag community before mid-August if we possibly could – even if it's for just an hour. Any chance of that occurring sometime between July 17-28? If not, we can sure shoot for Aug. 13-15; we'll nab you whenever we can get you! Know you're incredibly busy! And if you think the timing works best in mid-August for some positive trade developments, we fully appreciate that.

Also, could Todd Kemp and I give you a 5-minute call Thursday or Friday to get a recap on the Secretary's meeting with CME? You name it, early, late or somewhere in-between.

Hope you're getting a little downtime with your family this evening!

All the best, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, July 04, 2018 2:38 PM
To: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: RE: UPDATE -- Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and

Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in July

Randy,

I dropped the ball on this and I apologize. We are traveling the 11-16th and the Secretary is back in the week of the 16th which makes my meeting windows pretty hard to hit. Would August 13-15th be a possibility? I know that is a ways off, but we might have a better feel for things by then.

Thanks,

-Ray

From: Randy Gordon [mailto:(b) (6) @ngfa.org]



Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 5:18 PM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov >

Subject: UPDATE -- Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Ray,

I'm discovering that many aggies in DC don't have the same work ethic as you, and that it may be difficult to get some critical members of the U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade together on July 5 or 6 because of extended holidays.

Could I beg you to check on your availability the following week, specifically on July 9, 10, 11 or 12, either morning or afternoon?

Thanks, Randy

From: Randy Gordon

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 11:20 AM

To: 'Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC' < Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Ray,

Sending this to you privately. This is the Dialogue group you met with at Arent Fox's office last spring that is co-chaired by Gary Martin and Bill Westman of North American Meat Association. Usually attracts 50-65 people attend from ag producer and agribusiness associations and companies, and is an OFF-THE-RECORD conversation about trade issues. This is the group Gary and I have used to try to instill patience and positive/constructive messaging with the Administration on trade.

So, my thought is that it be you and Under Secretary McKinney (your call totally on whether you want to do that). Our goal is to provide to a larger audience of influential ag folks the kind of positive – we have a strategy and a plan – conversation we had privately with the Vice President. To the degree you can do so, think the Dialogue group would be particularly interested in hearing about the active efforts underway now to negotiate an agreement in principle with Mexico in July, the plan to reengage in substantive negotiations with China on fundamental, structural reform in mid-July, and any efforts to open up trade talks with Asia-Pacific countries, particularly Japan. Don't think that needs to include the entire trade team (with the possible exception of Jason Hafemeister) so as to not get too far into the weeds where your team might not want to engage quite yet.

Hope this helps, but glad to call to discuss further if you think helpful.

All the best, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]



Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:57 AM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Cc: Shuford, Campbell - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Campbell.Shuford@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: Re: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Hey again, Randy. We should probably be clear about expectations on this. Do you want me to try to pull in Ted and the trade team? How big is the group? I am copying Campbell Shuford here, who can work with Julie Gordon to see what our options are for me personally.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 4:09:38 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in July

naiogae for trade in July

Great, Ray! Let me see if I can get a venue. Is there ever a "good time" of day for you? Prefer morning or afternoon? Again, many thanks. Will give a good opportunity to start sending some pro-trade messaging.

Best wishes, Randy

From: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC [mailto:Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:59 PM **To:** Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>

Subject: Re: Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

July 5 or 6 could work because he's on the road.

We are at CME now and will give you a readout when back in DC.

From: "Randy Gordon" < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 3:51:39 PM

To: "Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Raymond.Starling@osec.usda.gov</u>> **Subject:** Checking on Your Willingness/Availability to Meet with U.S. Food and Agriculture

Dialogue for Trade in July

Ray,



I trust this finds you doing well, and thanks to you and Secretary Perdue for what our gang of 4 thought was a very good and productive meeting with the Vice President last week. We met via conference call yesterday to make further progress on the CEO visit following your conversation with Randy Russell.

In the aftermath of that meeting – and in your new capacity as USDA Chief of Staff – Gary Martin and I were wondering if you'd be willing and available to meet with the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in the near future. This is the same group you met with while at the White House, and I think some of the positive trade messaging that occurred during the VP meeting would be good for this group to hear from you/USDA.

Totally your call on whether to also involve Under Secretary McKinney in such a session.

Just let me know at your convenience what date(s) might work for you sometime in July for 60 minutes or so. Would any of the following work: July 5-12, July 23, July 27?

Many thanks, and thanks again for your continuing great work within the Administration and on behalf of the nation!

Best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO

National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202



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From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Fwd: Update on FGIS and TPP Trade Letter
Date: Friday, February 9, 2018 10:43:19 AM

Attachments: ATT00001.htm

image004.png ATT00002.htm

FoodAgTrade Asia-Pac Letter on TPP.pdf

ATT00003.htm

Very good convo with Randy yesterday re Farm Bill. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Randy Gordon < (b) (6) @ngfa.org>
Date: February 8, 2018 at 6:50:29 PM EST

To: "Heidi Green (Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov)" < Heidi.Green@osec.usda.gov>,

"Dudley Hoskins (dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov)"

<dudley.hoskins@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Bobby Frederick (6) (6) @ngfa.org>, Jess McCluer

<imccluer@ngfa.org>

Subject: Update on FGIS and TPP Trade Letter

Heidi and Dudley,

Thanks again so much for your time today! It was the best meeting I've had in weeks, by far!

I wanted to update you that Congressman Rodney Davis had intended to introduce legislation tomorrow as a placeholder that parroted the FGIS legislative language that NGFA was seeking to incorporate into the House version of the farm bill.

Upon my return, NGFA contacted Rep. Davis's office and they have agreed to strip out the legislative language calling for a study of domestic official agencies' geographic boundaries, as well as language regarding the delegation of authority to states to perform official inspection services on behalf of FGIS. We're told the only portion of the legislation that will remain upon introduction -- which now is being delayed until next week – is the portion related to the nonuse of service exceptions that Mr. Davis is particularly interested in, which appears to require a legislative fix.

Also, Heidi, I wanted to transmit an electronic copy of the letter of the Asia-Pacific Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade that I handed you this morning so that you could convey it on to Secretary Perdue with our warmest regards.



Thanks again to you both for your extraordinary service to the nation!

All best wishes, Randy

Randy Gordon, President and CEO
National Grain and Feed Association
1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 | Arlington, VA | 22202

(b) (6) @ngfa.org | (b) (6) (direct) | (202) 289-0873 | (202) 289-5388 (f)



U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer 600 17th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

The Asia-Pacific Market Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade welcomes President Trump's recent address at the World Economic Forum, in which he stated that the "United States is prepared to negotiate mutually beneficial, bilateral trade agreements with all countries...includ[ing] the countries within TPP [Trans Pacific Partnership]" and that the United States "would consider negotiating with the rest [of the TPP countries] either individually or perhaps as a group if it is in the interests of all."

The U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade is comprised of over 100 organizations representing America's farmers, ranchers, processors, and agri-businesses. As a leading sector for manufacturing in the United States, the ability to access one of the fastest growing regions in the world will yield measurable benefits to U.S. job-creators, American consumers and workers.

We understand that the eleven other TPP signatories will sign the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in March and begin implementing it in the ensuing months. Once this happens, our sector will be placed at a substantial disadvantage as other countries gain entry into these markets at substantially lower tariffs and preferential terms. Given the downturn in U.S. farm prices and profitability that already is hurting rural America, the timing could not be worse. American food and agricultural producers and companies are facing significant barriers in these markets that could be addressed with the improved rules and higher standards through reengagement with the TPP countries.

We believe there are compelling reasons to ensure that American farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, retailers, workers and consumers benefit from the opportunities that exist in the Asia-Pacific region. We would welcome sharing our specific ideas and supporting your Administration's efforts for reengaging with TPP countries in a manner that results in concrete gains for the United States.

Sincerely,

Asia-Pacific Market Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade

cc:

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce



Page Two February 8, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Committee The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry and Senate Finance Committees

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Michael Conaway, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee

The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member, House Ways & Means Committee

Mr. Gary Cohn, Director, National Economic Council



From: <u>Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC</u>

To: (b) @ngfa.org

Cc: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC

Subject: RE: USDA division chief of staff ideas for various mission areas

Date: Sunday, August 19, 2018 8:58:18 PM

Randy,

Thanks a ton. I'm humbled by the time and effort you obviously put into this. A great list and one we will use extensively.

Thanks again,

-Ray

From: Randy Gordon [mailto: (b) (6) @ngfa.org]

Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 12:31 PM

To: Starling, Raymond - OSEC, Washington, DC < Raymond. Starling@osec.usda.gov>

Cc: Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington, DC <Blake.Rollins@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: USDA division chief of staff ideas for various mission areas

Ray and Blake,

I wanted to follow up with some ideas on folks you might want to consider to fill some of the chief of staff vacancies in several of the USDA mission areas, or to fill other position vacancies. To my knowledge, all are Republicans. Don't know if any of them are considering changing jobs, but several may be.





	(b) (6)
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Some of these may be more senior-level than you're looking for, but wanted hope this helps! I'll keep thinking and forward other ideas as they come to mind.

Best to you both, Randy



From: Hoskins, Dudley - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email

Cc: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC; Ibach, Greg - OSEC, Washington, DC; Rollins, Blake - OSEC, Washington,

DC; Young, Joby - OSEC, Washington, DC; Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC; Crowe, Taylor - OSEC,

Washington, DC

Subject: USDA Response to NGFA Request & Notice of Solicitation for Nominees on Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018 5:24:34 PM

Attachments: NGFA Response 03.16.18.pdf

DELIBERATIVE, PRE-DECISIONAL

Mr. Secretary,

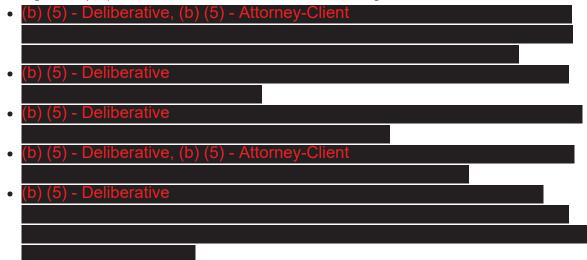
We wanted to make sure you have a copy of the attached letter Under Secretary Ibach sent to the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) yesterday.

We also wanted to make you aware that yesterday, USDA-AMS <u>published</u> an announcement soliciting nominees to serve on the USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

NGFA sent a note of appreciation in response to both of these actions.

Additional Background:

- NGFA submitted comments to USDA on the Department's re-organization.
- Three of NGFA's recommendations included in those comments were also part of NGFA's legislative proposals submitted to the House and Senate Ag Committees.



Please advise if you would like any additional information at this time. - dudley

Dudley Hoskins

(202) 720-6960 (direct)

(b) (6) (cell)

dudlev.hoskins@osec.usda.gov





United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary Washington D.C. 20250

MAR 1 6 2018

Mr. Randall C. Gordon President and Chief Executive Officer National Grain and Feed Association 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 260 Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Gordon:

We would like to express our appreciation for the comments the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) submitted on October 7, 2017, on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) reorganization. Specifically, we found NGFA's comments regarding the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) activities of the former Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration, now the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), to be particularly useful, and we are working to incorporate several process improvements identified in your recommendations.

Your comments also discussed three specific provisions related to grain inspection programs, which we have reviewed in more detail. We can provide the following determinations and current actions in response to these recommendations:

1. Request FGIS to review and update the current geographical boundaries for designated agencies that provide official inspection, weighing and other services in the domestic market.

Upon review of this issue, AMS has initiated an internal review of this request and will be undertaking additional engagement with NGFA and other stakeholders to help inform a sound review and update to this process. We expect to have our findings in spring 2019.

2. Directing FGIS to develop a new, standardized "Delegation of Authority Agreement" applicable to all delegated agencies that have met the statutory requirement under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to perform Official inspection and weighing services on FGIS's behalf at export port facilities.



AMS has reviewed our authority and determined we have the necessary authority to develop such a standard. This will not require rulemaking and can be achieved administratively. AMS has initiated our review to standardize the agreement and would welcome additional consultation with NGFA and other stakeholders to ensure this process is completed in the most expeditious and appropriate means possible. AMS anticipates completing this process by this summer, and we look forward to consulting with industry as we work through this process.

3. Restoring certain exceptions to the United States Grain Standards Act where an agreement between and eligible grain handling facility and the official agency has been reached and the Secretary of Agriculture has been notified of such agreement.

AMS has consulted with the Office of General Counsel and determined additional statutory authority is needed in order to proceed further with implementing this provision. AMS welcomes any additional insights or guidance NGFA may have as we look to improve our customer service capabilities in this space.

Thank you for your comments and insights on these provisions. We welcome any additional recommendations to help us provide superior customer service to our stakeholders. Please feel free to contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Greg Ibach

Under Secretary

Marketing and Regulatory Programs



From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Visit to National F & G and DC
Date: Monday, July 23, 2018 10:55:55 AM

Yes

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 23, 2018, at 10:50 AM, Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < <u>Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov</u>> wrote:

Sir,

Would you like me to schedule time for Mr. Ray Wiggins to come by Wednesday morning for a few minutes? Gary Beachner will also stop by Wednesday morning after the event.

Thank you, Lauren

From: Sonny Perdue (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:28 AM

To: Sullivan, Lauren - OSEC, Washington, DC < Lauren.Sullivan@osec.usda.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Visit to National F & G and DC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Danny Brown < (b) (6) @agrowstar.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 20, 2018 at 1:36 PM

Subject: Re: Visit to National F & G and DC

To: RAY WIGGINS (b) (6)

Ray, I will pass along to the Secretary. After the speech on Wednesday morning, work your way over to Sonny. He always like to see Georgia Folks. On the office visit, I have no idea about his schedule, but go to the Whitten Building, show your ID, register and tell them you would like to go to the Secretary Front Porch office. Go in say hello and rock in the rocking chairs for a while.

Thanks! Danny

On Fri, Jul 20, 2018 at 12:07 PM, RAY WIGGINS (b) (6) wrote:

Hi Danny, Jan and I will be attending the National



Feed and Grain Transportation meeting next week in Washington. I was delighted to see that our friend Sonny will be the keynote speaker Wednesday morning. I look forward to hearing him as he is always a wonderful look into how our USDA conducts business. If possible, please pass along to him the desire to also visit his office, not to bother him necessarily, but to see the headquarters that I have heard so much about over the years. Jan and I will be available anytime the rest of the week as we do our tourist visits and if a pass into the USDA headquarters is something that can be arranged we'd be very grateful.

Thanks for you help and hope to see you soon,

Ray Wiggins

Augusta Grain Trading, LLC







Sonny Perdue main (b) (6) cell (b) (6)



From: Crowe, Taylor - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Sonny Perdue's alias email

Subject: Wash Times: Sen Perdue to ask Senate leaders to delay August recess to pass backlog confirmations

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 2:35:15 PM

Attachments: image001.png

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/8/david-perdue-to-ask-senate-leaders-to-delay-august/

Sen. David Perdue to ask Senate leaders to delay August recess to pass backlog confirmations The Washington Times

<u>Sen. David Perdue</u> said Tuesday that he's calling on his fellow senators to delay the August recess in order to get more things done.

"We're offering the leadership again this year the opportunity to stay here — nights, weekends, — in through the August break to get that done," Mr. Perdue, Georgia Republican, said on Fox News.

He said he's calling his initiative "Make Congress Work Again," a play on President Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again." He said he wants to prevent the last-minute rush to pass spending bills and other important legislative items. He pointed to the massive \$1.3 trillion funding bill earlier this year as evidence of what happens when there's a rush to pass something.

Mr. <u>Perdue</u> said he believes Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell would be open to the idea of keeping the Senate in session into the recess since they have done it before.

"Last year, you know, we did the same thing," he said. "Four days into that period we got the Democrats to agree to 77 confirmations."

Mr. Perdue said he hopes a similar move will push Democrats to cooperate on some of Mr. Trump's backlogged nominations waiting to be confirmed.



Taylor Crowe
Personal Assistant to the Secretary
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell (b) (6)



From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email
Re: What do you know about this?

Date: Saturday, July 1, 2017 9:51:01 AM

I got a briefing on it on Thursday. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

Sonny Perdue's alias email

On Jul 1, 2017, at 9:21 AM, (b) (6) osec.usda.gov wrote:

NGFA, partner organizations, recommend USDA drop proposed biotech

regulatory changes

The NGFA, in a statement submitted jointly with four other agribusiness associations Monday to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), urged that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) withdraw its proposed regulations governing the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms.

APHIS requested comments on its proposed "Part 340" revisions, which include the elimination of the notification process for certain genetically engineered organisms in favor of an affirmative permitting scheme. APHIS says its proposed revisions are an attempt to increase the "efficiency and precision" of its regulations to keep pace with advancements in biotechnology.

The NGFA, Corn Refiners Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, North American Export Grain Association and North American Millers' Association responded that government authorities in important U.S. export markets had not been adequately consulted nor accepted USDA's proposed regulatory approach, which could result in significant disruptions in trade of U.S. agricultural commodities and processed products. The organizations urged the agency to withdraw the proposed changes to its Part 340 rule and instead turn attention to engaging with international governments to build a better understanding and acceptance around the reasons the agency is seeking to modify its regulatory oversight.

"Above all else, APHIS needs to 'do no harm' by avoiding prematurely implementing a regulatory approach under Part 340 with respect to advancements in genetic engineering technology that puts U.S. grain and agri-bulk exports at risk," the NGFA and other organizations said. "APHIS should not be working at cross-purposes to undercut the Administration's focus on trade and exports."



USDA must develop a "comprehensive engagement strategy" with regulatory agencies in other countries to build international acceptance around a science- and risk-based approach that ensures genetically engineered plants do not pose a plant pest or noxious weed risk, the groups stated.

"...APHIS's regulatory approach must be recognized by, and acceptable to, government regulatory authorities in U.S. export markets so as not to trigger regulatory action against U.S. commodities produced using genetic engineering or plant-breeding innovation, including gene-editing, in international commerce," the comments state.

Sent from my iPad



From: (b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC Stephen Censky's alias email

To: (b) @nqfa.orq

Subject: RE: Would You Have Time for Quick Call after 4 PM today? 202-888-1091

Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 3:25:28 PM

Randy,

Yes, will give you a call.

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

Stephen L. Censky
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office 202-720-6052

From: Randy Gordon [mailto (b) (6) @ngfa.org]

Sent: Friday, June 1, 2018 1:26 PM

To:(b) (6) - OSEC, Washington, DC <(b) @osec.usda.gov>

Stephen Censky's alias email

Subject: Would You Have Time for Quick Call after 4 PM today? (b) (6)

Mr. Deputy Secretary,

It was great to see you this morning. I didn't want to interrupt the conversations you were having nor talk "shop" during the reception, but wondered if you'd have time for a quick call today sometime after 4 pm on our favorite topic – China. I'll be here until at least 7 pm, and can stay later that works better for your schedule. Direct dial number is (b) (6)

Many thanks!

Randy

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From: <u>Johansson, Robert - OCE</u>

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email Fwd: Our Midnight Train From Georgia Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 9:19:27 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Blanton, Bruce - AMS" < Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov>

Date: September 15, 2017 at 8:55:47 AM EDT

To: "Coale, Dana - AMS" < <u>Dana.Coale@ams.usda.gov</u>>

Cc: "Neal, Arthur - AMS" < <u>Arthur.Neal@ams.usda.gov</u>>, "Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC" < <u>Jannine.Miller@osec.usda.gov</u>>, "Caffarelli, Peter -

AMS" < PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov>, "Ulibarri, Ronald - AMS" < Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov>, "Johansson, Robert - OCE"

< RJohansson@oce.usda.gov>

Subject: FW: Our Midnight Train From Georgia

FYI – Please see below. The CSX grain train to Okeechobee should arrive by noon and to the customer by 6 pm. All seems to be working as planned/discussed by industry yesterday. This is good. Bruce

From: Clay Detlefsen [mailto:(b) (6) @nmpf.org]

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:47 AM

To: Marvin, Lucille < Lucille. Marvin@stb.gov>; (b) (6) @ngfa.org; Meyer, Gabriel

<<u>Gabriel.Meyer@stb.gov</u>>; Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC

<<u>J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov</u>>; Zachary Conlin <<u>z(b) (6)</u> @freshfromflorida.com>;

Andrew Walmsley (b) (6) @fb.org>; Caffarelli, Peter - AMS

<PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov>; Blanton, Bruce - AMS

<Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov>; Gastelle, Jesse - AMS

<<u>lesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Florida Scott Eubanks < 6 6 @ffbf.org>;

sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov; Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS

< Matthew. Bragg@aphis.usda.gov>; Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS

<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Our Midnight Train From Georgia

Update:

Good morning,

X80915 last reports approximately 70 miles outside of Okeechobee and is



projected to arrive around noon today. The current plan is to deliver the cars to the customer around 1800 this evening. I'll continue monitoring and provide an update once the placement is confirmed.

```
From: Clay Detlefsen
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 8:35 AM
To: 'Marvin, Lucille' (b) (6)
                                 @stb.gov>; 'Randy Gordon' <(b) (6) @ngfa.org>;
'Meyer, Gabriel' <(b) (6)
                               @stb.gov>; 'Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC'
<J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov>; Zachary Conlin <z(b) (6) @freshfromflorida.com>;
'Andrew Walmsley' (b) (6) @fb.org>; 'Caffarelli, Peter - AMS'
<PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov>; 'Blanton, Bruce - AMS'
<Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov>; 'Gastelle, Jesse - AMS'
<Jesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov>; 'Florida Scott Eubanks' <(b) (6)</pre>
                                                                      @ffbf.org>:
'sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov' <sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov>; 'Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS'
<<u>Matthew.Bragg@aphis.usda.gov</u>>; 'Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS'
<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Our Midnight Train From Georgia
All-
 Randy just informed me that the train left last night at 20:26 and appears to be
 on schedule.
 Clay
From: Clay Detlefsen
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 6:59 PM
To: 'Marvin, Lucille' (b) (6) <u>@stb.gov</u>>; Randy Gordon < (b) (6) <u>@ngfa.org</u>>;
                              @stb.gov>; 'Fisher, J Troy - OHSEC, Washington, DC'
Meyer, Gabriel <(b) (6)
<<u>J.Troy.Fisher@dm.usda.gov</u>>; Zachary Conlin (b) (6)
                                                          @freshfromflorida.com>;
'Andrew Walmsley' (b) (6) @fb.org>; 'Caffarelli, Peter - AMS'
<<u>PeterA.Caffarelli@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Blanton, Bruce - AMS
<<u>Bruce.Blanton@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Gastelle, Jesse - AMS
<<u>Jesse.Gastelle@ams.usda.gov</u>>; Florida Scott Eubanks <(b) (6)
                                                                    @ffbf.org>;
sharon.s.fisher@usda.gov; Bragg, Matthew P - APHIS
<<u>Matthew.Bragg@aphis.usda.gov</u>>; Zack, Jonathan T - APHIS
<Jonathan.T.Zack@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject: Our Midnight Train From Georgia
 All-
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Here are the details of the Great Grain Train. We have everyone on this email from the call except for David Meyer (spelling?).

I can be the conduit to all, but don't hesitate to contact each other directly as needed.

Thank you all so much for your help on this issue. I am amazed, delighted and indebted to you all.

Regards
Clay
=======================================
The CSX train from Waycross, GA to United Feed consists of the following:
8 cars of corn 3 cars of soy hills 1 car of soymeal 1 car of canola meal 3 cars of DDGS
In addition, the CSX train will be picking up 7 more cars in Ballwin, FL (east of Jacksonville) that includes 3 cars of corn and 2 cars of soymeal intended for other feed mill customers in Okeechobee County.
The train is scheduled to arrive at United Feeds Friday night and be spotted and ready for unloading Saturday morning. CSX has communicated all this to United Feeds.
CSX is to keep me posted on any updates, and I' II forward on to you.
Clay, could I impose on you to send this to the bigger group? Working off my phone until later tonight and didn't want to encumber this email with all the previous text.
Thanks!
Randy
Regards



Clay

Clay Detlefsen, Esq.
Senior Vice President, Environmental and
Regulatory Affairs & Staff Counsel

2107 Wilson Blvd., #600
Arlington, VA 22201

(b) (6) Direct

Cell @nmpf.org

www.nmpf.org

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<image003.png>

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From: Green, Heidi - OSEC, Washington, DC

To: Sonny Perdue's alias email
Re: What do you know about this?

Date: Saturday, July 1, 2017 9:51:01 AM

I got a briefing on it on Thursday. (b) (5) - Deliberative

Sent from my iPhone

Sonny Perdue's alias email

On Jul 1, 2017, at 9:21 AM, (b) (6) osec.usda.gov wrote:

NGFA, partner organizations, recommend USDA drop proposed biotech

regulatory changes

The NGFA, in a statement submitted jointly with four other agribusiness associations Monday to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), urged that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) withdraw its proposed regulations governing the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms.

APHIS requested comments on its proposed "Part 340" revisions, which include the elimination of the notification process for certain genetically engineered organisms in favor of an affirmative permitting scheme. APHIS says its proposed revisions are an attempt to increase the "efficiency and precision" of its regulations to keep pace with advancements in biotechnology.

The NGFA, Corn Refiners Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, North American Export Grain Association and North American Millers' Association responded that government authorities in important U.S. export markets had not been adequately consulted nor accepted USDA's proposed regulatory approach, which could result in significant disruptions in trade of U.S. agricultural commodities and processed products. The organizations urged the agency to withdraw the proposed changes to its Part 340 rule and instead turn attention to engaging with international governments to build a better understanding and acceptance around the reasons the agency is seeking to modify its regulatory oversight.

"Above all else, APHIS needs to 'do no harm' by avoiding prematurely implementing a regulatory approach under Part 340 with respect to advancements in genetic engineering technology that puts U.S. grain and agri-bulk exports at risk," the NGFA and other organizations said. "APHIS should not be working at cross-purposes to undercut the Administration's focus on trade and exports."



USDA must develop a "comprehensive engagement strategy" with regulatory agencies in other countries to build international acceptance around a science- and risk-based approach that ensures genetically engineered plants do not pose a plant pest or noxious weed risk, the groups stated.

"...APHIS's regulatory approach must be recognized by, and acceptable to, government regulatory authorities in U.S. export markets so as not to trigger regulatory action against U.S. commodities produced using genetic engineering or plant-breeding innovation, including gene-editing, in international commerce," the comments state.

Sent from my iPad

